

TOILS AND TEARS



By H. M. HOCUTT

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TOILS AND TEARS

A Brief History

of

The Oakdale Baptist Church

SPENCER, NORTH CAROLINA



FRONT VIEW OF THE CHURCH

Prepared by

The pastor, Rev. H. M. Hocutt, with the able assistance of Mrs. Herman Hood, Mrs. Luther Weant, Miss Mildred Morrow, and Miss Frances Easter.

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BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

At the regular business meeting of the Oakdale Church on Wednesday night, July 5, 1961, a motion was made by J. C. Copley and seconded by W. H. Wilson that the church approve the recommendation of the deacons that a committee be appointed to gather information and prepare a history of the church. The vote was unanimous. The committee chosen for this purpose consisted of Mrs. L. Y. Weant, Hugh D. Young, Miss Betty Ruth Smith, now Mrs. Herman Hood,) Miss Frances Easter, and Miss Mildred Morrow. It was expected that the pastor would work along with the committee.

Although the intentions of the members of the committee and of the pastor were good, nothing was done about this matter until the early part of 1967. At that time only four members of the committee remained because Hugh D. Young had died in 1964. The work was begun in a definite way in the spring months of 1967 with the hope of having the history ready by Homecoming Day on the first Sunday in June of that year; however, it took much time and effort to gather the material and to get it ready for the printer. In December of 1967, when the work was about completed, the pastor had a heart attack, and this further delayed the completion of the writing of the history. We are sorry this work has not been completed and put into the hands of the people at an earlier date.

We know this volume does not give a complete history of our church in all details. We have tried, however, to include all the major events and to make the story as complete as possible. We have tried to avoid errors, but we know that some will be found after it is too late to correct them. We hope the book will be well received and appreciated and that the readers will be charitable in their thoughts and remarks when they see errors and when they see where improvements might have been made.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the members of the committee for their good work and cooperation and to the many members and friends of the Oakdale Church who have given information that has been useful in the preparation of this history.

We shall be happy if this story, when it is in print, will help to keep alive some of the cherished memories concerning the toils and tears that have helped to make our Oakdale Church the reality it is today, and we shall be happier if this story will challenge our present church family and all future members to help make our future even brighter than our history has been.

H. M. Hocutt

June 25, 1968



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DEDICATION

With love and devotion we dedicate *Toils and Tears* to all living members of the Oakdale Baptist Church and to the memory of all deceased members who through their "labour of love" have helped to make this story possible.

SMITH SCHOOL HOUSE

For a complete picture of the background out of which the Oakdale Baptist Church came into being, we must begin with the Sunday School in the Smith School House. This school house was located close to where Joe Greene lived across the Lexington Highway from the present plant of the Owens-Illinois Company. We have two bits of information that come close to agreement on the date of the beginning of the Sunday School in this location. Before her death, Mrs. Gladys Hackett French told Mrs. W. G. Grubb that she was born in 1894 and that she was five years of age when the Sunday School began. This was the year before she entered the public school at the age of six. Mrs. Charlie J. Walton, formerly Miss Mary Yarborough, tells us that the near-by Toll Bridge over the Yadkin River was built in the fall of 1899 and that the first toll at the bridge was collected on December 12, 1899. Her father, John Yarborough, was the collector of toll at the bridge. She says that the school house was not built until soon after the bridge was erected and put into use. These two bits of information lead us to believe that the Sunday School at the Smith School House likely began in the spring or summer of 1900.

Mrs. W. G. Grubb and Mrs. Charlie J. Walton tell us that Lee Armstrong, a member of the First Baptist Church in Spencer and Post Master in Spencer, walked to the community and organized the Sunday School. Before starting the organization, he went to the home of Mrs. Gladys Hackett French's grandmother, affectionately known as "Grandma Hackett," and asked her if she thought they could make a go of a Sunday School in that location.

Several ministers of different denominations preached in the school house after the starting of the Sunday School. A Methodist minister by the name of Tucker, pastor of the Bethel Methodist Church, preached some on Saturday nights, and the pastor of the Spencer Presbyterian Church preached several times. A young man by the name of Wade Sowers, a Lutheran, preached a few times while he was still wearing knee pants. Some Baptist ministers who preached there from time to time were Rev. Joe Beck, Rev. Gerald Grubb, Rev. Lee Carrick, Rev. Floyd Frye, and Dr. J. N. Stallings for whom the Stallings Memorial Church was named. The Rev. Lee Carrick was a hard-working and energetic young man who could quote much scripture. The people worked with him, especially the young people, and he did much to lay the foundation that led later to the organization of a Baptist Church.

We make special mention of a revival meeting conducted in the school house by the Rev. Floyd Frye of Davie County. There were many converts in this revival, and he took them on a Sunday

afternoon down to the place called "The Rock" at the Yadkin River and baptized them. The new converts formed a long line as they stood in the river before they were baptized. At the suggestion of some of the older people, all the young ladies wore rain coats over their dresses when they were baptized. Two tents were put up close to the river where the new converts went to change their clothes after being baptized. There were five young ladies in this group who were among the charter members of the Oakdale Church. They were Elva and Ada Snider, Sophie and Cazelle Beck, and Etta Easter. On that Sunday afternoon Hugh Young asked another young lady to go into the tent where the ladies were dressing and ask Elva Snider if she would give him a date. She did, and this was their first date. We will read more about them later.

In addition to Lee Armstrong, the first superintendent, we have information about the following men who served in this capacity: John Henry, father of Mrs. R. B. Simmerson; Lewis Beck, father of Lee, Jim, John, Noah, and Miss Fannie, and of Mrs. J. L. Wyatt, Mrs. L. Y. Weant, Mrs. Mildred Fink, and Mrs. Ray Simmerson; H. Maddison Grubb, better known as "Mad" Grubb, father of Miss Cora and W. G. Grubb, and of Mrs. J. H. Young, Mrs. R. M. Allman, and Mrs. W. A. Hoffner; John Yarborough, and D. Emory Snider, father of R. C., Carl, Glenn and Kay Snider.

We have a partial list of those who taught in the Sunday School. They were as follows: Mrs. Will Julian, mother of W. R. Julian; Miss Besse Waller, who married Wesley Poole; Miss Mary Yarborough, who married J. S. Windsor and after his death married Charlie J. Walton; Mrs. Cora Hackett, and Miss Phenia Sowers.

After going for some while with no musical instrument, the group purchased an organ that was played by Miss Mary Yarborough, Mrs. Cora Hackett, and Miss Cora Julian, now Mrs. Joe Poole, Sr., of Spencer.

To begin with the group used the David C. Cooke literature, but while D. Emory Snider was superintendent, it was suggested that they change to Baptist literature. With no vote taken on it, the switch was made to Baptist literature with no objection being raised to it. Carl Snider was secretary at the time.

Due to the bad roads and the limited means of travel, the Sunday School which met in the afternoon, would begin in the spring of each year and continue until the Christmas program and Christmas tree and then close down during the hard winter months.

AT THE OAKDALE SCHOOL HOUSE



Oakdale School House where the Oakdale Church was organized on December 27, 1925.

According to the best information we have been able to get, the Oakdale School House, located near where Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Snider live on what is now called "Snyder Street," was built about 1923. Mrs. J. H. Young, one of our charter members, says that she and her husband built their home in the community in 1922 and that the Oakdale School House was built soon after that. The Sunday School was moved from the Smith School House to the Oakdale School House soon after the latter was built. Mr. Adam L. Walton of the Trading Ford Church was elected as the superintendent when the move was made to the new location, and he served until just before the organization of the Oakdale Church. Two sisters, Misses Elva and Beulah Snider, were among those who taught after the move was made to the new location. Miss Elva taught what was called the "Card Class," and Miss Beulah taught the Primaries. As far as we have been able to learn, most or all of those who had taught at the Smith School House continued to teach after the move was made. We are not sure whether the beginning of Misses Elva and Beulah to teach represents changes in or additions to the teaching staff.

Mrs. Hugh Young, who was Elva Snider before marriage, tells us that her sister Beulah, who married Lee Yarborough, offered a

prize to the members of her class who would memorize and quote the most verses of scripture. Miss Edythe Barnhardt, now Mrs. Ralph Lingle, won the prize. The prize was some small dessert bowls. Mrs. Lingle still has some of those little bowls, and she is very proud of them. She is one of our faithful and efficient teachers at present.

Two ministers who preached at the Oakdale School House were Rev. J. A. Sharp and a Rev. Mr. Jamison. Both of them were or had been Methodist ministers. Mr. Herman L. Greene was the leader of the choir during this period. Some of the ladies who played the little organ were Carrie Mae Poole, now Mrs. Lee R. Snyder; Cora Julian, now Mrs. Joe W. Poole, Sr.; and Mrs. Burt C. Miller. Mrs. Poole helped also as one of the teachers.

Mr. Thomas D. Poole tells us that he helped to tear down the Oakdale School House. He says that his father, Mr. L. J. Poole, Sr., bought it when the school was discontinued. They had trouble getting to where they could work at the very top of the roof because of the way it was built. A Mr. Henry Wilson, who was helping them, brought his fishing rod and reel along. He threw his line across the highest point of the roof, and they fastened to it half of a stick of dynamite with a long fuse. They lighted the fuse and pulled it back to the highest point of the roof. When the dynamite went off, the roof came down.

Some people think of this building as the Smith School House because it was a continuation of the same school; however, Mr. D. R. Myers in his brief history of the Oakdale Church said that the name was changed to Oakdale. For that reason we have spoken of it as the Oakdale School House.

THE COMING OF MR. AND MRS. D. R. MYERS

It was a good day for the Sunday School when Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Myers came to take part in the work. An unusual thing happened that had some influence on their coming to the Oakdale Sunday School. They lived down toward the Trading Ford Church, but they were going regularly to the North Main Street Church in Salisbury where both of them were charter members. Each Sunday they passed right through the community on their way to church. One Sunday they had a flat tire on the car in front of the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Kesler, father and mother of Mrs. W. G. Grubb. When this happened, they just left their car parked by the side of the road and walked over to the Oakdale Sunday School. They were impressed with the group, and they came to feel that they were needed there. This led them to identify themselves with the Sunday School. When the Oakdale Church was organized on December 27, 1925, they were charter members. This means they were charter members of both the North Main Street and the Oakdale Churches.



MR. AND MRS. D. R. MYERS

Mr. Myers was the mail carrier in the community. He was a faithful and dependable worker who had the confidence of the people, and he came to be one of the main leaders in the Sunday School and in the early years of the Oakdale Church. He was a good Bible student, and he taught the class of men that came to be known as the Myers Bible Class. The older class of men in the Oakdale Sunday School still goes by that name. When called upon, Mr. Myers could preach, and he did it in a very acceptable way.

Mr. Myers died on March 21, 1935, and Mrs. Myers died on May 7, 1964. She was 91 years of age at the time of her death. When she died, she was the oldest member of the Oakdale Church.

From *The Salisbury Post* for March 22, 1935, we take the following concerning Mr. Myers.

Stricken with a sudden heart attack Rev. D. R. Myers, aged 64, well known Baptist minister, died at his home near Spencer Thursday afternoon. Funeral services will be held at the Oakdale Baptist Church here Sunday at 2 P.M., conducted by the pastor, Rev. Earle L. Bradley, assisted by Rev. Charles L. Fisher, pastor of the North Main Street Baptist Church in Salisbury. The pallbearers will be members of the Sunday School class taught by the deceased and flower bearers will be from the class taught by Mrs. Myers.

Mr. Myers was a charter member and official of Oakdale Baptist Church, and he was greatly loved by black and white where ever known. He was a rural mail carrier for 30 years and was recently retired with honors.

PLANS FOR ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH



Rev. J. A. Sharp. He had been preaching to the group at the Oakdale School House for some while before the organization of the church on December 27, 1925. He was called as the pastor at that time. He resigned on July 25, 1926.

As interest in the Sunday School grew, some of the people came to feel that they should organize into a regular church. The group was composed of people of different denominations, and ministers of different denominations had preached for them; however, many of the people were of the Baptist faith, and they were using Baptist literature. Mr. Herman L. Greene talked with Dr. M. W. Gordon, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Spencer, and asked his opinion about their organizing a church in the community. Mr. Gordon told him that it was a poor bee hive that did not swarm at times and that he thought they needed a church in the community. He said that he knew they would lose a few members from Spencer but that the loss of a few members to a new church would make the people of the Spencer Church get down and work harder.

At the suggestion of Dr. Gordon to Mr. Greene, Rev. J. A. Sharp, who was preaching at the Oakdale School House at the time, appointed a committee composed of Mrs. W. G. Grubb and Mr. Greene to get a list of the people who would like to be charter members of the church. Mrs. Grubb worked among the Baptist

people of the community, and Mr. Greene got what names he could from the people who attended the Sunday School. When the time came for the organization of the church, they had the names of thirty-three people who had signed up to be charter members.

We are happy that before his death Deacon D. R. Myers prepared a brief history of the early years of the church. We give that history here just as he prepared it.

HISTORY OF OAKDALE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Prepared by Deacon D. R. Myers)

As it has been a custom of the good people of Oakdale, for many years, to hold Sunday School and preaching at the "Smith School House," they continued their good work when the location of the school was changed and the name became Oakdale. Deacon Adam Walton of Trading Ford Baptist Church was the superintendent of the Sunday School. This was a fine school and much good was accomplished. Various ministers preached and held meetings at this place. We call to mind two meetings at this new school house. Pastor R. N. Huneycutt of Trading Ford and D. R. Myers of North Main Street Church, Salisbury. Two singing schools were also held at Oakdale School house by Prof. C. B. Rollins of Greer, S. C.

On November 8th, 1925, Rev. J. A. Sharp of Spencer, N. C., preached at Oakdale school house, with view of organizing a church. At the close of his sermon, he called the congregation to order in a conference, which resulted in the temporary plans for organizing of a regular Baptist Church. D. R. Myers, a deacon of North Main Street Baptist Church, Salisbury, N. C., was asked to serve as clerk and keep the records of the days proceedings.

Elder J. A. Sharp gave an opportunity to all who wished to unite with the church that was awaiting organization, to present their names for enrollment. A list of 33 names of persons, who wished to join the new church, was handed to the clerk. These names are placed on record as, "Charter Members," which read as follows: H. L. Green, Mrs. H. L. Green, W. S. Easter, W. G. Grubb, Mrs. W. G. Grubb, Miss Kate Grubb, D. R. Myers, Mrs. D. R. Myers, Mrs. W. A. Hoffner, T. D. Green, Mrs. T. D. Green, H. D. Young, Mrs. H. D. Young, H. A. Easter, Mrs. M. E. Easter, Miss Etta Easter, W. L. Beck, Mrs. W. L. Beck, Miss Cazelle Beck, Miss Sophie Beck, Miss Fannie Beck, Mrs. A. P. Snider, Mrs. Ada Sigmon, J. H. Young, Mrs. Ada Young, T. H. Kesler, Mrs. Lillian Kesler, Mrs. Minnie Beck, Mrs. Ethel Smithey, T. B. Smithey, Mrs. Allie Hinkle, Miss Cora Grubb, Mrs. L. R. Smithey.

The following brethren were elected as temporary deacons for the proposed new church; H. L. Green, T. H. Kesler, H. D. Young and T. B. Smithey.



Charter members present at Homecoming the first Sunday in June of 1961: back row (left to right), Hugh Young, W. G. Grubb, W. S. Easter, Mrs. W. A. Hoffner, Herman Greene; front row, Mrs. Hugh Young, Mrs. W. G. Grubb, Miss Cora Grubb, Mrs. Kate Allman, Miss Fannie Beck, and Mrs Herman Greene.

H. L. Green, D. R. Myers and Mrs. W G. Grubb were appointed as pulpit committee.

December 27th, 1925. On this date the congregation was called to order by Elder J. A. Sharp, of Spencer, N. C. The object of this meeting was for the purpose of organizing a regular Baptist Church at Oakdale School House.

ORGANIZATION

Elder J. A. Sharp was elected moderator, Elder R. S. Lennon of East Spencer and D. R. Myers assisted in the organization of a regular Baptist Church.

NAME OF CHURCH

OAKDALE was unanimously selected as the name of the church, this being the name of the public school at that place.

Having now completed the organization, it was next in order to read the articles of faith. Rev. R. S. Lennon read articles of faith.

The church covenant was next in order and was read by Rev. J. A. Sharp.

After reading Articles of Faith and Church Covenant both were unanimously adopted by the church.

Elder J. A. Sharp, who had been acting as temporary pastor was unanimously elected as the regular pastor of "Oakdale Baptist Church."

The new pastor of the new church did not serve very long. He began as pastor, December 27, 1925, and on July 25, 1926 tendered his resignation. The church took this under consideration and on Aug. 22, unanimously accepted his resignation; thus serving the new church only about 8 months.

While there was no mention of salary for Rev. Sharp; regular collections were made that caused him to speak of the liberality of the church.

The new church is now without a pastor, but regular services were kept up by the church; conducted chiefly by deacon D. R. Myers; until about the last of August 1926, when elder, Earle L. Bradley came to us from Asheville, N. C., who at this time began a meeting that was attended with great success, many professions of faith being made in this great revival—yea, the meeting was verily great and the church holds it fresh in mind, even unto this day.

On September 12th, 1926 a called conference of the new church was made, this was for the purpose of electing a pastor. Elder Earle L. Bradley, of Asheville, N. C., was placed in nomination and with much interest and enthusiasm, was unanimously elected to the second pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church. The church we suppose, forgot to say anything about a salary; at least it is not mentioned in the records, but the church took regular collections and gave them to the pastor. If the new pastor thought about a salary he did not mention it before the meeting. (We were still in the school house and one of the main objects in view was to get a church building where we could have more liberty.) The energetic, new pastor, preached from September 12th, 1926 to January 16th, 1927 without any salary mentioned. I wonder what the critic has to say, about the preacher, not going to a church without a stipulated salary named? Put this in your pipe and smoke it, Earl L. Bradley preached over four months without salary mentioned. The salary at the time was only \$400.00 per year.

We are now ready to leave the school house, but before leaving let me tell something of interest. There was an effort, on the part of some, to complain about the use of the Oakdale School house, for Sunday School and preaching purposes; this effort developed in an order to close the doors against services, but the Oakdale church people had, and still have, backbone and indomitable, that don't pine away at discouragements. These persevering people went before the "Board of Education", and to say the least,

not a single service was missed. Opportunity was extended to them to make arrangements for the church and Sunday school. The opposition, no doubt, was a blessing in disguise, to hasten the day when we could occupy a building of our own. Good-by Oakdale school house. Many thanks to the Committee and Board of Education for the use of the school house.

A committee appointed by the church had been striving hard to locate a lot for the new church; this was hard to locate. Probably a few verses written by the clerk of the church, will best describe the situation:

Our present location was hard to find,
Other locations were close behind.
Some said locate on the highway farther down,
Others said that's too far out of town;
Some had it deep in their heart;
That a certain gift would give us a start
From the estate, of Newton Earnhart;
So from this error, it was hard to part.
Oh, something must be done this very hour!
So we sought other sources and power;
And found lots owned by Geo. Isenhour.
Here a selection was unanimously made,
But the price, oh it was not yet paid!
Six hundred dollars for lots sounded high.
Yes, it made us feel mighty shy.
But just then, God revealed, the unseen;
That price was all paid by Thos. Green.
Praise God for revealing the unseen,
And Thank God for brother Thos. Green.
Our people did so well.
Their gifts are too many to tell.
Gifts of carpenters and masons played their part;
These all gave us an excellent start.
The ladies did many gifts find,
They were not one whit behind.
The building committee
acted very witty.
Lester Smithey, over office, did not gloat,
He became chairman by unanimous vote.
Smithey was energetic and humble,
We never heard him grunt or grumble.
He joyfully pushed the work right through,
So in four weeks, we knew what to do;
The doors were opened wide
And the people came inside.

First service in the new church was held on 4th Sunday in October 1926. Oakdale church enjoyed, at the above date her first time to worship in a building that she could call her own. New building cost \$7,000.00.

Under the wise and energetic leadership of chairman Lester Smithey, the church was ready for its first service in four weeks time. Mechanics of ready and willing minds, volunteered their service for the building of the church. Truly, God was and is, with us.

On the 26th of June 1927, the church arranged by a unanimous vote to change from once a month preaching to service every two weeks. The pastor's salary was also changed from four hundred dollars per year to one thousand dollars per year.

On April 15th, 1928 the church agreed to set apart the 1st, Sunday in June as an annual rally day for the church.

Also at this same meeting it was unanimously agreed to call a pastor for full time preaching and that his salary be eighteen hundred dollars per year.

On August 25th, 1928, the church adopted the budget system for handling the finances of the church. Bro. B. Smithey was elected general treasurer of the church.

The church decided on September 2nd, 1928 to purchase the present burying ground in front of the church. The price of said cemetery being one thousand and fifty dollars. Since the agreement of the above date, other plans have been made for paying for the cemetery; namely: Members of Oakdale are to have the first choice at lots, at \$25.00 per plot, and then others be allowed to purchase the remainder.

Bro. M. L. Smith was elected in September 1929, clerk of the church, to take the place of D. R. Myers who had resigned.

In conclusion let me say Oakdale has a strong W. M. U., that has done many good and noble deeds. We also have a good B. Y. P. U., which is leading the young into fields of usefulness.

Respectfully submitted,

D. R. Myers

We give here a brief explanation about the deacons. Mr. Myers included in his history information about the temporary deacons, but he did not name the regular deacons who served after the church was organized. The record book gives the names of the deacons as T. H. Kesler, H. D. Young, Baxter Smithey, D. R. Myers, L. R. Smithey, M. A. Agner, Adam Walton, and A. F. Copley. Some of these men were not charter members, but they joined the church soon after it was organized. All of them served as deacons in the early years of the church.

THE COMING OF REV. EARLE L. BRADLEY



REV. AND MRS. EARLE L. BRADLEY. He was pastor from September 12, 1926, until December 25, 1938.

In the summer of 1926, Mr. Herman L. Greene was back at his home church, the Union Baptist Church in Buncombe County. A young man by the name of Earle L. Bradley preached that Sunday morning, and he made a deep impression on Mr. Greene. When the Rev. J. A. Sharp resigned as pastor of the Oakdale Church on July 25, 1926, Mr. Greene told the people about Mr. Bradley and suggested that they try to get him to come if possible for a revival meeting, and Mr. Greene went back to see Mr. Bradley and talked with him after the morning service at the Union Church. Mr. Bradley sat down with his back against a tree in the church yard and told Mr. Greene that if the Lord directed him that way, he would be there to preach for them on the fifth Sunday night in August.

Mr. Bradley came as he promised; and when he drove into the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Greene on that Sunday afternoon in his one-seated, square looking Model T Ford, several young ladies, Laura and Etta Easter, Frances Greene, Pauline Poole, and Fannie Beck, were on the front porch to welcome him.

Mr. Bradley's first sermon was on Gideon and his breaking of the pitchers. The revival started that fifth Sunday night in August, 1926, and continued on until sometime in September. The house and yard were filled with people at every service. At the close of the

revival there were twenty-eight people, three of them weighing over two hundred pounds, baptized near the Toll Bridge over the Yadkin River.

One of the twenty-eight who were baptized was Mr. Lester R. Smithey. Mr. Smithey gave an account of his conversion to Mr. and Mrs. W. Rav Harris who visited him and his wife recently in their home near Columbia, S. C. We give the account just as Mrs. Harris reported it. Mr. Smithey says that he went to the revival services one night and that he told some friends he was not going back because those people out there had too much religion for him. The next day in his store he told his wife to go on to church that night but that he would not go because he had had a full day and did not have the time to go. Either on that day or on a day or two before, Miss Fannie Beck went into the store where Mr. Smithey was working, and as she walked by him she said, "Lester, I am praying for you." When he went home that night, he walked out to the barn and walked all about the place, but he could not be satisfied. Finally he said that if that was what the Lord wanted, he would go on out to the service, and he did. When he got there they were singing the invitation hymn, and he just walked on in and made his profession of faith in Christ. He became very active in the Oakdale Church. He was chairman of the Building Committee when the building was erected. For these last years he has lived in South Carolina where he has been quite active as chairman of the Board of Deacons and has served in other ways in the First Baptist Church of Columbia.

Some people were not too favorably impressed with Mr. Bradley when they first saw him, but their opinions changed when they heard him preach. Mr. Wesley Poole, better known as "Shorty Poole," said that he was going to hear him preach once. If he liked him, he would go back; but if he did not like him, he would not go back. He must have liked him when he heard him preach. At least he went back, and he continued to go back. He was one of the faithful members of the Oakdale Church when the present pastor came the latter part of April in 1955. He died on October 28, 1955. His fine family of sons and daughters, who are still faithful members of the church, give evidence of the influence of his Christian life through the years.

Mr. Bradley did not move his wife and children to the community until about the time of his graduation from school. He was away in school most of the time except on week-ends, and his wife and children lived with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. John Killian of Asheville. When he moved his wife and children to the community, Mr. and Mrs. Killian came and lived with them. His son, Earle Jr., was about eighteen months old when they moved to the community.

CONCERNING THE ERECTION OF THE BUILDING

The brief history by Deacon D. R. Myers includes some things about the erection of the building, but we add here a few things that we think will be of interest.

We quote from the church records the following statement about the purchase of the land on which the building was erected: "The two lots held in possession by the church were given by Thomas D. Green. The price was six hundred dollars (\$600.00)."

The people of the community helped in different ways with the building. Some of the men came and worked on the building along with the members. People from all over the community and beyond came when hot dog and ice cream suppers were planned to raise money for the building. The ladies did their full part by fixing meals and serving them to the men who were working on the building and in cooking and selling meals to help raise money for the building.

One day some of the men were putting up sheet rock, and Mr. Bradley told Mr. Herman Greene that he was hitting like lightning. Mr. Greene replied that he did not know he was hitting that fast, and Mr. Bradley told him that it was not that he was hitting so fast but that he never hit twice in the same place.

Mr. Lester Smithey, the chairman of the committee, says that while they were erecting the building some of the people came to him and told him that they would just have to slow down with the work because they were running out of money, but he told them that they just could not stop then. They continued to move forward, and somehow the money came in time to pay the bills.

About the time the building was ready for the first service, Mr. Smithey was talking with Mr. W. G. Grubb and told him that they needed \$100.00 badly, and Mr. Grubb went home and told his wife about it. They had on hand at that time \$100.00 they had been saving with which to buy a living room suite, but they decided to give that money to the church and wait until a later date to get their living room suite.

When the building was ready for use, the people faced the need of furniture and equipment. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brooks gave the pulpit stand and two chairs that were used for several years. The stand that they gave is now being used in the prayer room. Mr. Brooks has died, but Mrs. Brooks lives on Cain Street.

Many other people gave money for the building when they needed it badly for their own families, and some gave items of furniture. This sort of sacrifice and cooperation helped to mold the people together in close fellowship and help to make them most grateful and happy when their efforts met with success. No wonder the Oakdale Church building is so dear to the hearts of the people who put so much of their labor and love into it!

From Clifford Copley we learn that Lester Smithey took his little mule and dragged the sand from the creek behind where Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Poole lived to make the mortar that was used in the building. The mule was used also to haul the sand to the place where it was used to make mortar.

MESSENGERS TO THE ASSOCIATION

In the summer or fall of 1926, the year after the organization of the Oakdale Church, the church elected Hugh Young, Herman L. Greene, and Mrs. W. G. Grubb as messengers to the South Yadkin Association that met at the Trading Ford Church. Mrs. Hugh Young and Mrs. Herman Greene went along with them. Mrs. Young says that before they were received the moderator asked them what Baptists believed and that they were not able to answer the question; so they left the meeting and went back to the home of Deacon D. R. Myers. He was not at home, but Mrs. Myers gave them a book that helped them to get the information they needed. With that they went back to the meeting and were received. That was an embarrassing experience for them.

From the *Annual of the Baptist State Convention* for the year of 1926, we get the following information about the report of the Oakdale Church to the Association: membership, 33; Sunday School Membership, 189; Missions (State, Home, Foreign), \$13.00; Total Local Contributions (Pastor's Salary etc.) \$391.38; Total (All Contributions), \$404.38.

Mrs. Grubb says that she heard a talk that day on *The Biblical Recorder* and subscribed to it and that from that day the church has had some subscribers to *The Recorder*. She says also that the church has never failed to send messengers to the Association.

FIRST SERVICE IN THE NEW BUILDING



The grave of Mr. W. Lewis Beck who died November 13, 1934. He was one of the superintendents of the Sunday School while it met at the Smith School House. In the background is a view of part of the Oakdale Church building before it was raised and brick veneered in 1936.

The church record book has the following statement about the first service in the new building: "1st Service in New Building. The new Church held its first service on the fourth Sunday in October 1926." *The Salisbury Post* carried an interesting story on November 10, 1926, written by A. W. Hicks concerning this first service in the new building. He gave the date of the first service as the first Sunday in November, but we think surely that the date as recorded in the records would be correct. With this explanation, we give the story as it appeared in the paper:

Sunday was a red-letter day for the Oakdale Baptist congregation, the occasion being the opening of a splendid new house of worship located on Charles Street, just on the northern outskirts of Spencer, near the National highway. The ground was secured and work on the structure began the first week of October and the first preaching service was held just a month later on the first Sunday in November. It was a glad day for the congregation composed of splendid folks who built the church on record time. The edifice is 50 x 60 feet in size, is well arranged with inclined floor

and suitable rostrum, while there are eight well arranged Sunday School rooms on the sides of the main auditorium, well suited for class work and which may also be thrown into use for a large audience. The church is a credit to the community and stands to the faith and determination of its members.

The pastor, Rev. Earle L. Bradley, preached Sunday to a large congregation on the "Bethany Revival." He spoke especially of the need of a revival and said it must start in the home and then in the church.

A big feature of the day was the splendid singing by the Oakdale choir under the direction of Mr. Herman Greene. The chorus work was great and captivated the audience and especially the visitors.

At the conclusion of the service a number were taken into the church which now has a membership of something like 100, while there are 193 enrolled in the Sunday School. Arrangements have been made for services every first Sunday morning and night.

SOME OTHER FIRSTS

At this point, when we are discussing the first service in the building, it might be well to call attention to some other first things. The first person to be baptized in the baptistery of the church was Scott Huffman. He was baptized on April 28, 1949. The first couple to be married in the church was Richard Marlin and Zula Wyatt. They were married on January 19, 1941. The first person to be buried in the cemetery was Mrs. T. D. (Fannie) Greene, Sr. She died on February 12, 1929.

AN INTERESTING SIDE LIGHT

Mrs. M. L. Smith gave a bit of interesting information about Mr. Bradley that gives some insight into the way the people thought of him. She says that they had a room at their home where Mr. Bradley spent many nights. Their children called the room "Mr. Bradley's Room." Quite often he would come there on Friday afternoons when he returned from Wake Forest where he was in school. At times she was not expecting him and had not prepared for him, but she always fixed him a plate and he ate as a member of the family. She says that she told him one day that he could eat more when she was not expecting him than he did when she had fixed for him.

THE FIRST RALLY DAY

We have found the record of the contributions made on the first Rally Day at Oakdale held on June 5, 1927. Mr. Tom H. Kesler tells us that the church had borrowed some money from Mr. Dan Wilson, father of W. H. Wilson, when the building was

erected in 1926. One of the purposes of this special Rally Day offering was to raise the money to repay this debt. The goal for this offering was \$2000.00. The money was counted as the members and friends brought offerings or told what they would give. The first count showed a total of \$2,009.01, but when the money was counted a second time the total was \$1,980.01. There were a number of pledges made to be paid later, and Mr. Bradley asked Tom Kesler to collect those pledges. All the pledges were paid, and the total amounted to more than \$2,000.00

The contributions and pledges were as follows: L. M. U., 201.09; H. D. Young, \$100.00; L. R. Smithey, \$100.00; D. R. Myers, \$100.00 (paid 99.55 by check and 45¢ in cash); Clifford Copley, \$100.00; T. D. Greene, \$400.00; A. F. Copley, \$50.00; Earle Bradley, \$50.00; Dr. Seay, \$10.00; H. P. Miller, \$5.00; J. H. Young, \$20.00; Burton Ball, \$10.00; Mr. and Mrs. Ellington, \$10.00; Mrs. Sallie Robertson, \$5.00; P. E. Lanning, \$5.00; Tommy Kesler, \$50.00; S. S., \$146.00; church Treas., \$241.00; Mrs. Avery Snider, \$5.00; Mrs. Grace Grubb, \$10.00; Mr. Barnhardt, \$5.00; Edna File, \$10.00; A. W. File, \$75.00; Mrs. A. W. File, \$10.00; L. R. Snyder, \$10.00; Frank Sowers, \$5.00; Carl Young, \$10.00; J. D. Winters, \$5.00; P. J. Miller, \$5.00; A. L. Walton, \$20.00; Cynthia Leonard, \$10.00; Webster Loflin, \$10.00; Miss Geneva Copley, \$10.00; Mrs. Luther Weant, \$10.00; M. A. Agner, \$25.00; W. S. Easter, \$10.00; Etta Easter, \$10.00; Fannie Beck, \$25.00; J. L. Shoaf, \$1.00; Grey Grubb, \$6.00; J. L. Walton, \$1.00; H. L. Hinkle, \$5.00; D. E. Snider, \$3.00; John Gobble, \$1.00; Tom Brooks, \$1.00; W. A. Hoffner, \$10.00; E. Y. Hoffman, \$50.00; S. F. Barnhardt, \$2.00; G. F. Copley, \$50.00; Etta Hennerson, \$5.00; N. M. Hennerson, \$5.00; Geneva, \$1.92.

Mr. John Walton was the secretary and Miss Beulah Agner the assistant secretary.

On April 15, 1928, it was decided that the first Sunday in June of each year would be set aside as Rally Day. On this day each year a "March Offering" has been received. The money has gone usually for the building. It has been called the "March Offering" because the people have marched by and dropped their offerings on the table.

We are indebted to Clifford Copley for finding this record of the First Rally Day after most of the history had been prepared.

A BIT OF FUN

On September 23, 1927, the first summer after Mr. Bradley came as pastor, many of the members of the church gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Greene at 600 N. Salisbury Avenue for a meal together in honor of Mr. Bradley on his birthday. In the afternoon, after they had enjoyed their meal together, some of them decided to have some fun at his expense. It was a sort of custom in those days among the people to put a fellow under the bed

on his birthday, and they wanted to do that for Mr. Bradley. Some of them persuaded him to go into the house for some reason, and some of them caught him and put him on the floor and held him down while some others just picked up the bed and put it over him. We are not entirely sure of all who had a part in doing this, but we understand the following had a hand in it: H. L. Greene, M. A. Agner, Hugh Young, L. R. Smithey, Baxter Smithey, Ray Harris, and Tom Kesler. There may have been others who helped do it. We are sure there were many others who enjoyed the fun of it.

FROM THE CHURCH RECORDS

We give here without comment the record of some of the conference meetings during the ministry of Rev. Earle L. Bradley that are not given elsewhere:

January 16, 1927. (The first part of the record of this meeting is included in the history by Deacon D. R. Myers. We give here the latter part only.) Envelope system of collections was also adopted at this meeting. Breth. A. L. Walton, M. A. Agner and T. B. Smithey were elected as ushers. Individual communion cups were adopted by the Church. These were furnished by the Ladies Aid Society. The names of Breth. M. A. Agner and L. R. Smithey were added to the list of deacons.

September 1929. Church sat in regular conference with pastor presiding. D. R. Myers resigned as Clerk of the Church, having served since the organization of the Church. Bro. M. L. Smith was unanimously elected in the place of the former Clerk. Several changes were also made in the ushers. The following were elected: J. C. Coppley, Odell Snider, A. C. Nash, Fred Smithey, Johnie Walton.

November 15th, 1931. Church called in conference by the pastor. On recommendation of the board of Deacons Mr. L. J. Poole was nominated and unanimously elected to the Board of Deacons, and also on recommendation of the Board of Deacons Bro. A. L. Walton was nominated and unanimously elected to the office of trustee.

March 5, 1933. Church sat in regular Conference. Being recommended by the Board of Deacons Bro. W. H. Mauldin was elected to be a Deacon, Bro. M. A. Agner having resigned.

April 2, 1933. Church held regular Conference and it was voted to let Bro. H. L. Greene use part of the Cemetery plot for a garden.

April 7th, 1935. Church sat in regular Conference as usual every first Sunday in the past two years and everything has been regular without anything to report except

the financial reports on the first and they have all been paid. Brothers F. A. Sides, M. A. Agner and C. W. Young were recommended and elected deacons.

June 23rd, 1935. Church called in a conference by the pastor. Recommended by Board of Deacons that we hold a series of meetings in July. It being regular moved and seconded the vote carried. The meeting was not held on account of the epidemic of Infantile Paralysis. Also recommended by a Committee of the Board of Deacons that the Church buy a new furnace the cost being about (600.00) six hundred dollars. It being regular moved and seconded the vote carried unanimously in favor of buying the furnace.

July 31st, 1938. The Building program has been going on nicely. The Church was raised and Sunday School rooms built in Basement. The Building has been Brick veneered all over and we now have a very nice House of Worship on the outside. Our regular annual rally day was held on the 1st Sunday in June 1938. We had a contribution of \$550.00 on the Building Fund. And we were pleased to have with us the following week the Rev. Dr. Luther Little of Charlotte in a series of meetings. I am writing this as we have not been having regular Church Conferences. M. L. Smith, Clerk.

THE CHURCH BUILDING RAISED AND BRICK VENEERED

We give here the minutes of the business meeting for July 5, 1936, as they are recorded: "Church sat in regular conference. The question of Building more to the Church was outlined by the pastor as recommended by the Board of Deacons that we raise the Church five feet. The Church voted unanimously to raise the present Building five feet." This was almost ten years after the building was erected.

Mrs. M. L. Smith, whose husband was clerk when the building was raised, gives us some things of interest about the raising of the money and about work on the building when this work was done. She says that the men worked at the church after they got home from their jobs in the afternoons, and in this way they did much of the work themselves. The people were called upon to give generously of their money in the worship services, but they also worked in other ways to raise the money for the work on the building. They had ice cream suppers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Smith, and the people of the whole neighborhood came and ate ice cream and enjoyed the fun together. Some of the ladies fixed hot dinners and sold them for 50¢ a plate to the men at the Southern Railway Shops in Spencer and at the North Carolina Finishing Company at Yadkin. The dinners included chicken, dressing, candied yams, and pie or cake. Mrs. Smith said that Mr. Bradley was not too much in favor of raising money that way,



Rev. Earle L. Bradley in front of the church before the front was completed. Note the steeple on top. It was removed later because of the difficulty in keeping the roof from leaking.

but he said, "If you can't get a dime out of a fellow any other way, give him a hot dog or a dish of ice cream." In different ways the necessary money was raised, and the work on the building was completed.

Mr. J. C. Copley tells of an incident that happened when the building was jacked up before the work was completed. He says that they had a storm one day, and the people were afraid the wind would blow the building off the jacks. While the wind was blowing, Mr. Bradley ran under the building and said, "O Lord, if you are going to let the wind blow the building down, let me go with it."

A BABY CONTEST

In an effort to raise money for the Building Fund, a baby contest was held that was completed on Homecoming or Rally Day, the first Sunday in June, 1938. This was soon after the building had been raised five feet and brick veneered, and money was needed to finish paying for the project. There were eight contestants, each sponsored by a member of the W.M.U. The one getting the most votes was to be declared the winner, and each vote cost a penny. Anybody could vote for any child. This contest

which ran for 30 days brought in \$218.00. The winner was little Miss Patsy Beck, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Beck. Other contestants were Larry Walton, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Walton of Greensboro; Harold Ray Harris, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harris; Miss Effie Sue Wilson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wilson, Miss Sue Carolyn West, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis West; Miss Joan Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sullivan; Skeets Benton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Benton; and Charlotte Poole, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Poole.

THE RESIGNATION OF REV. EARLE L. BRADLEY

Clerk M. L. Smith recorded the minutes of the conference on November 27, 1938, in the following way:

Church held short conference. Bro. J. C. Copley and Bro. Luther Weant were elected upon the recommendation of the board to be ordained as deacons. Bro. M. A. Agner was elected as a member of the pulpit committee. At this time our much beloved pastor Rev. Earle L. Bradley read his resignation as pastor and after some discussion it was accepted with very much regret.

We have found Mr. Bradley's letter of resignation, and we include it here.

To Oakdale Baptist Church

I hereby tender my resignation as pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church to take effect December 25, 1938. Praying the blessings of God upon you and thanking you for your love and cooperation of the past.

Earle L. Bradley

We have found also a record of this meeting by H. D. Young which reads as follows:

Pastor read his resignation to church at the conclusion of his sermon. The pastor left the congregation after reading of resignation and asked H. D. Young to have church to act on his resignation. Deacons Mauldin, Walton and Copley made expressions of sorrow and deep regret at hearing pastor tender his resignation after 12 years of faithful devoted service to his church and people, but willing that God's will be done and asked that church vote to accept pastor's resignation. The church voted unanimously to accept resignation, feeling their great loss at his going but willing that God's will may be done.

Mildred Morrow expressed the feeling of the people when she said, "That was a weeping day at Oakdale Church when Mr. Bradley offered his resignation."

On November 30, 1938, *The Salisbury Post* carried the following story about Mr. Bradley and his resignation:

Tending his resignation as pastor of the Oakdale Baptist Church in Spencer, Rev. Earle L. Bradley has accepted a unanimous call to the pastorate of the Calvary Baptist Church in Wilmington. It is understood the change is to become effective January 1.

The Rev. Mr. Bradley, a native of Asheville, graduate of Mars Hill College, Wake Forest College in 1930, taking a special course in the School of Religion at Duke University, has been unusually successful as pastor in Spencer.

Starting 12 years ago with a membership of 33, the Oakdale congregation, under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Bradley, built a brick house of worship and has a membership of 300, and is in splendid condition. The Sunday School numbers 350.

While a very busy pastor, the Rev. Mr. Bradley found time to serve as vice chairman of the Spencer school board, as the moderator of the Rowan Baptist association, as superintendent of training in the association, is now general chairman of the Red Cross, as state promotion committeeman, as secretary of the State Baptist Pastors' conference, and on the Spencer park commission. He has been especially active in sports.

Calvary church in Wilmington is one of the oldest and one of the largest in North Carolina, with a membership of 1400. The retiring pastor, Rev. J. A. Sullivan, has been there 28 years.

From the issue of *The Biblical Recorder* for October 13, 1962, we quote the following concerning the death of Brother Bradley:

Dr. Earle L. Bradley, 60, director of the Division of Stewardship and Editorial Services of the Baptist State Convention, died Friday morning, October 5, in Rex Hospital, Raleigh. He had been hospitalized since suffering a heart attack five weeks ago. There was hope for his recovery until he suffered a second attack.

For 18 years, he had served in denominational work, first as general missionary in promotional work, and later, in 1952, was named secretary of stewardship promotion. In 1959, he was chosen to head the Division of Stewardship Promotion.

He is survived by his wife, the former Elease Lingerfeldt; one son, Earle Jr.; one daughter, Mrs. Albert Gurganus; four grandchildren; his mother, Mrs. F. E. Bradley; three sisters, Mrs. Brian Clontz, Mrs. Claude Hill, Mrs. Rufus Maynard; and one brother, Emory.

REV. R. O. BRINKLEY CALLED AS PASTOR



Rev. and Mrs. R. O. Brinkley with Carolyn and Patricia standing at the corner of the pastor's home. The home was purchased in 1943 while they were here. He was pastor from January 1, 1939, until September 15, 1944.

We have a full account by H. D. Young of the conference meeting on Sunday, December 4, 1938, when the Rev. R. O. Brinkley was called as pastor. The account reads:

After the morning worship the Pastor called the Church into conference for the purpose of making a report from the Pulpit Committee on the selection of a new pastor for the Church. The chairman of the Pulpit Committee asked that the Pastor put the recommendation of the Committee before the Church for action. Recommendation is as follows: After prayerful consideration the Committee has unanimously decided that Bro. R. O. Brinkley of the First Church of China Grove is a very able minister and fully capable of the task, and asked that the Church act on recommendation of Committee.

Pastor put the recommendation before the Church and asked the people to vote their sentiments one way or the other. Bro. E. L. Young made a motion that Church extend the call of the Church to Bro. R. O. Brinkley. Bro. C. W. Young seconded the motion, and Church voted unanimously

to call Rev. R. O. Brinkley. Benediction by Rev. E. L. Bradley.

FIRST SERVICE OF MR. BRINKLEY

Clerk M. L. Smith recorded the first service of the new pastor in this way: "Jan. 1st 1939. Rev. Brinkley our new pastor holds his first service today."

CHURCH ENTERS RETIREMENT PLAN

On July 30, 1939, the church voted to enter the retirement plan for ministers promoted by the Baptist State Convention in cooperation with the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The plan called for the church to pay 4% of the pastor's salary and the pastor to pay 4%, with an amount to be paid by the Baptist State Convention. All funds are to be administered by the Annuity Board.

AUDITORIUM REMODELED

On August 6, 1939, the church voted to go ahead with the remodeling of the auditorium. The services were held in the basement while this work was being done. Mr. Jim Wilson did the work. Mr. Brinkley tells us that there were many favorable comments about the auditorium on the Sunday that the first service was held after the work was completed.

REST ROOMS

On September 26, 1940, the deacons discussed the matter of rest rooms and voted approval of the putting in of a septic tank at a cost of \$80.00 and the installing of rest rooms at a cost of \$120.00, making a total of \$200.00. We have no record of a vote by the church on this matter, but the rest rooms were fixed.

FRONT OF THE CHURCH COMPLETED

There had been some discussion about the building of a parsonage and about the completion of the front of the church. The deacons were interested in doing both of these things as soon as possible. On February 24, 1941, A. F. Coppley made a motion in the meeting of deacons that they complete the front of the church first, and J. C. Coppley, his son, seconded the motion. The deacons voted in favor of the motion. On April 28, 1941, the deacons voted to put windows with one vent in the front of the church and to fix one of the windows in honor of Rev. R. O. Brinkley with the window to be paid for by the deacons at a cost of \$6.50 each. The cost of each window was \$54.00. The work on the front of the church was done by Mr. Jim Wilson who painted the woodwork on the outside of the building at the same time. The minutes of the meeting of the deacons on June 23, 1941, gives the cost of the work including the painting as \$882.19.

CLASS ROOM COMPLETED

On March 31, 1941, the deacons voted to provide the material for Lester Beck to complete his class room and to give him the privilege of getting someone to help him if necessary. At the same meeting they voted to give him a check for \$36.00 on the cost of materials.

NEW ROOF

The matter of a new roof for the church was discussed at the meeting of the deacons on October 6, 1941, and A. L. Walton and J. C. Coppley were appointed to see about it. At the meeting on November 24, 1941, the cost of the new roof was given as \$385.00. According to the report of the pastor at a later date, the new roof was put on the church.

SHRUBBERY AROUND CHURCH

The matter of shrubbery at the front of the church was brought to the deacons on November 24, 1941, and again on December 29 of the same year, and it was agreed that Mr. Brinkley would have the women to purchase the shrubbery. It was reported to the deacons in their meeting on January 26, 1942, that the W. M. U. had appointed a committee composed of Mrs. M. A. Agner, Mrs. R. B. Simmerson, Mrs. Fred Young, Mrs. Lester Beck, and Rev. R. O. Brinkley to look after this matter.

ROBES FOR THE CHOIR

The robes for the members of the choir were fixed just before Christmas of 1941. Mr. Hugh Young got the material from the North Carolina Finishing Company at Yadkin, and the ladies fixed the robes for the members of their families who sang in the choir. Mrs. A. B. Beck tells us that Mrs. W. H. Wilson cut out the robes for some of the ladies and showed them how to put them together. The first robes were white. They were used the first time at Christmas of 1941.

SUNDAY BULLETINS

The Sunday bulletins were started in 1941, and so far as we know they have been used consistently since that date. For some several months Mr. Brinkley fixed them each week, but later on R. L. Wyatt, now a member of the faculty of Wake Forest University, helped to fix them. The bulletins that have been preserved have been a great source of information in gathering material for use in preparing this history.

A HOME FOR THE PASTOR PURCHASED



The Pastor's Home, purchased in 1943.

Over a period of several months there was a discussion by the deacons and others about the need for a home for the pastor, and definite action was taken on this matter following the meeting of the deacons on December 14, 1942, when Mr. H. D. Young reported that Mrs. Anna Fultz had agreed to accept the offer made by the church for her home on Charles Street. In accepting the offer she requested that some members of the church meet with her and her representative to make the deal. The record of the meeting of the deacons for January 11, 1943, has the names of C. W. Young, A. L. Walton, and Rev. R. O. Brinkley as the committee who purchased the parsonage. The price of the home was \$2,700.00. In addition to this amount, Mrs. Fultz was paid \$9.00 for insurance that had been paid in advance until May 15, 1944. The church borrowed \$2,000.00 from Mr. John Beck and took \$700.00 from the treasury to pay Mrs. Fultz for the home.

In an effort to raise the money to repay the amount borrowed to purchase the home and to take the necessary improvements on the home, the deacons decided to have a special offering on the first Sunday in February at which time they would "try to get at least \$500.00 laved on the altar." The deacons requested J. C. Coppley and A. L. Walton to contact a Mr. Trexler and have him to start the repairs on the parsonage. The cost of improvement on the

home was \$975.00. Rev. and Mrs. Brinkley and their children moved into the home in March of 1943.

The record of the meeting of the deacons on May 3, 1943, includes a statement to the effect that the financial drive had been good. In the church bulletin for January 16, 1944, just one year after the home was purchased, we find this statement:

The debt on the parsonage is paid in full. We thank you for making this possible. This is one of our outstanding accomplishments for the year 1943.

FLAGS AT THE CHURCH

The first flags for the church were given by four daughters of Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Beck, namely: Mrs. Andy (Sue) de Marcellac, Mrs. O. D. (Mary) Snyder, Mrs. D. L. (Dorothy) Talbert, and Mrs. Lindsey (Pauline) Roseman. They were given in honor of their brother, Kenneth Beck, and of O. D. Snyder, D. L. Talbert, and Lindsey Roseman, who at the time were in World War II. They bought and paid for the American Flag, and they made the Christian Flag. Mr. Hugh Young had someone to make the bases and poles for the flags, and they paid for the work. One of these four young men, Lindsey Roseman, was killed while in service. Pauline later married Fred Agner.

These four ladies fixed also a large white Service Flag that was hung back of the choir in the auditorium on which they put a blue star for every young man or young lady in service and a gold star for each one who was killed in service. The North Carolina Finishing Company gave them the white material out of which they made the Christian Flag and the Service Flag.

In May of 1960 new American and Christian Flags were purchased and given to the church by Hugh Young and another good man who prefers to remain anonymous. The cost was \$17.70.

The present American and Christian Flags were given in April, 1967, by Mrs. John T. Beck and children in memory of Mr. John T. Beck. The original bases and poles are still in use.

THE RESIGNATION OF REV. R. O. BRINKLEY

From the record by H. D. Young in the book where he kept the minutes of the meetings of the deacons, we give the following information about the resignation of Mr. Brinkley:

Church conference Aug. 27th 1944. Rev. Brinkley rendered his resignation to the Church after the worship service. He gave a brief outline of some of the accomplishments that had come under his leadership. A total of 110 new members has been added to the Church since his work began Jan. 1st 1939. A total of \$7,489.51 has been

raised through free will offerings. This is above the regular expense. The Church has no debt, and we now have a balance of \$325.35 in the bank. Bro. W. H. Mauldin presided over the conference. H. D. Young made the motion and A. L. Walton 2nd the motion that we accept Rev. Brinkley's resignation. Church voted to grant request.

The Salisbury Post had an account of the resignation of Rev. R. O. Brinkley which is as follows:

Rev. Raymond O. Brinkley, pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church, Spencer, for the past five and a half years, has accepted the call of the First Baptist Church of China Grove and will move there with his family within a week or two. He has announced his resignation to his congregation.

He will deliver his final sermon at the local church on Sunday. The move will then await only completion of a renovation program now in progress at the parsonage of the China Grove Church.

His acceptance of the call has been announced to the congregation of his church by W. T. Owensby, pulpit committee chairman. He succeeds there Rev. W. A. Roberts, who recently retired on account of ill health and went to Charlotte to live, following a pastorate of 14 months.

Mr. Brinkley, a native of Columbus County, spent his boyhood in Kannapolis. He is a member of a distinguished Baptist family which has reared many ministers. He graduated from Wingate Junior College and came to Catawba, where he received his B. A. degree in 1932.

He became pastor of the China Grove Baptist Church and remained until January 1, 1939, when he accepted a call of the Baptist Church in Oakdale, on the outskirts of Spencer. During his pastorate there the church auditorium has been renovated; the exterior of the church, built shortly before he arrived, has been completed; a \$1,000 debt on the building has been cleared; the congregation has purchased and paid for a modern pastorium; and recently bought a \$1,000 war bond in furtherance if its program of building a reserve fund for future work.

Mr. Brinkley has also been active in civic work in Spencer. He was chairman of the Red Cross chapter there for a year, is now its disaster chairman and has been for five years a member of the executive committee. He has served on committees in all community campaigns. He has also served as a member of the library committee.

He has been a member of the Salisbury-Spencer Ministerial Association and is a former president of the Spencer Ministerial Association. For two years he was moderator

of the Rowan Baptist Association, in which his membership will continue.

During their residence here Mrs. Brinkley has also been of great service in the Oakdale Church. She is a former president of the Woman's Missionary Society and taught Sunday school for some time. They have two children, Carolyn, age eight, and Patricia Ann, two.

REV. AND MRS. R. O. BRINKLEY HONORED

Just before Rev. and Mrs. Brinkley left the Oakdale Church to return to China Grove, their many friends had a supper in their honor. We give here the account of the event as reported by *The Salisbury Post*.

Members of the Oakdale Baptist Church, Spencer, and other friends of the Oakdale community honored their pastor, Rev. R. O. Brinkley, and Mrs. Brinkley, at a supper and evening of fellowship on the lawn of the church last week.

A large crowd was present to bid goodbye to the Brinkleys, who are leaving this week for China Grove, where Mr. Brinkley will be pastor of the First Baptist Church.

A long table was spread, picnic style, with many good things to eat, brought by the members. After supper, hymns were sung and various ones spoke words of praise to Mr. Brinkley and of good wishes for him and his family in their new venture. Appreciation was expressed for his service during the five and a half years he has been at the Oakdale Church.

The ladies of the church presented crystal to Mrs. Brinkley as a farewell gift.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Brinkley spoke graciously in acknowledging tributes of their Oakdale friends.

REV. JOHN G. HICKS CALLED AS PASTOR

From the minutes of the deacons we find that the Oakdale Church extended a call to Rev. John G. Hicks on October 15, 1944. Mr. J. C. Coppley, chairman of the deacons, presided at the meeting. Two names were before the church for consideration. One was Rev. R. R. Campbell, and the other was Rev. John G. Hicks. Mr. Hicks received the majority of the votes, and the church then extended to him a unanimous call as pastor. He preached his first sermon as pastor of the Oakdale Church on Sunday morning, November 12, 1944. At the close of the service he and Mrs. Hicks presented their church letters and they were received as members of the church. Mr. Coppley gave to them the right hand of church fellowship in behalf of the church.



REV. AND MRS. JOHN G. HICKS. He was pastor from November 12, 1944, until February 28, 1947.

We find a picture of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks in the church bulletin for December 3, 1944. On the same page there is an expression of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Hicks with a response by them. We give these statements below.

How happy we are to welcome our new pastor and his wife into the fellowship of our Church. It is such a joy to have them to inspire and to lead us during these trying days.

Mr. and Mrs. Hicks come to us from the First Baptist Church, Liberty, N. C. Mr. Hicks is originally from Kings Mountain, N. C. He received his A. B. degree from Gardner-Webb Junior College and Wake Forest College and his B. D. degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Mrs. Hicks is a native of Salisbury, the former Martha Eller. She was graduated from Mars Hill College and received her B. R. E. degree from the Baptist Training School in Louisville, Ky. We pledge to them our hearty cooperation as a Church and as individuals. Our prayer is that we will go forward under their leadership.

The statement in response by Mr. and Mrs. Hicks is as follows:

It is with a peculiar feeling of joy in our hearts that we come to you. We are truly happy that the Lord has led us to Oakdale. We have already found that the people of this Church and community are a dependable people, who are eager to keep growing and to be zealous laborers in His vineyard. All of us know that the Church is cramped because so many of our valuable workers are in the Service of Our Country. Nevertheless, let us pledge to them and to our Lord that we will move forward in a noble way.

The deacons expressed their feeling of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Hicks by having a ton of coal put into the basement for them. This kind act of the deacons helped them to feel a warm welcome. A fellowship supper was planned for them at an early date after their arrival.

Mrs. Hicks' father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Eller of Salisbury, came to live with them in the parsonage.

THE GOOD WORK OF REV. AND MRS. HICKS

Rev. and Mrs. Hicks came to us as a young couple. He was a recent graduate of the Southern Seminary in Louisville, and she



The Adult and Junior Choirs when Mrs. John G. Hicks was the Choir Leader.

was a recent graduate of the W. M. U. Training School in Louisville. They were talented and dedicated. Mr. Hicks was a good preacher, and Mrs. Hicks was very efficient in music. They made an excellent team. They spent slightly more than two years with us, but during those years they rendered a service that has lived on in the lives of the people. Their good work was positive and progressive. Mrs. Luther Weant has spoken recently to the pastor about what the very fine ministry of music by Mrs. Hicks meant to their two children, Jackie and Nancy.

We find a very excellent summary of the good work of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks in a statement by the deacons and in an article that appeared in *The Salisbury Post* after his resignation, but in addition to those statements, we mention here some of the things done during his ministry among us.

The lot between the parsonage and the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Brandon was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Fisher. Mr. Brandon wanted one-third of the lot to give him a little more room for a driveway. The lot was surveyed, and two separate deeds were fixed, one for Mr. Brandon and the other for the Oakdale Church. The cost of the lot was \$150.00.

On the recommendation of the deacons and on a motion by H. D. Young and seconded by Mrs. Geneva Reid, the church voted on January 7, 1945, to set a goal of \$5,000.00 during the year for the Building Fund. On June 4, 1945, on a motion by L. Y. Weant and seconded by W. H. Mauldin, the deacons voted to recommend that the offering in the Sunday School and worship service on the first Sunday in each month be added to this fund. It is evident that this effort to raise money for the Building Fund was a good success. On March 3, 1947, the deacons voted to recommend that the church buy \$5,000.00 of paid-up stock at the Home Savings and Loan Association.

On September 26, 1946, the church voted to remove the steeple from the building. This was done at the recommendation of the Property Committee because it was causing leaks that were ruining the ceiling of the building.

In the minutes of the meeting of the deacons for July 17, 1946, we find that the church had spent \$1,319.00 in permanent improvements during the ministry of Mr. Hicks up to that time. These improvements were listed as concrete curbs, the purchase of lots, work in the cemetery, etc. When Mr. Hicks became pastor the church had \$1,500.00 in the treasury, but at the time of this report the cash on hand amounted to \$5,899.44. This money helped to make possible some of the accomplishments that came after Mr. and Mrs. Hicks left us.

At their meeting on October 8, 1946, the deacons discussed the need for a Brotherhood at the Oakdale Church, and a committee composed of Mr. Hicks, L. Y. Weant, and J. C. Coppley was appointed to work out plans for the organization. This is the first account we have concerning a Brotherhood at the church.

THE RESIGNATION OF REV. JOHN G. HICKS

Rev. John G. Hicks announced his resignation as pastor of the church to the Board of Deacons on January 6, 1947, and he presented his resignation to the church on January 12, 1947. He remained at the Oakdale Church through February, and he then went to the Stallings Memorial Church to serve as minister of education. We find in the minutes a statement from the deacons about the services of Brother and Mrs. Hicks during their ministry here. The statement is as follows:

The Board discussed the fine work done by pastor and his fine wife, and Bro. Mauldin made a motion and seconded by Bro. Weant that the Board make a statement to Church expressing their sincere thanks to Mrs. Hicks for the fine work she has been doing for our choirs and the special voice training she has been so graciously giving to our young people, also thanking her for the fine Christmas music and pageant, and the fine way in which pastor and wife conducted the Vacation Bible School and special activities conducted throughout their stay with us. In response to this statement from deacons the Church gave a rising vote of thanks to Rev. and Mrs. Hicks for these fine contributions.

We give here an article that appeared in *The Salisbury Post* about the resignation of Brother Hicks. It gives a brief summary of some of the accomplishments while he and Mrs. Hicks were here.

Rev. J. G. Hicks, pastor of the Oakdale Baptist Church in Spencer, has resigned to accept a call to become minister of education at the Stallings Memorial Baptist Church in Salisbury. His resignation becomes effective at the end of February.

Mr. Hicks came to the Oakdale Church in November, 1944, from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church, Liberty, N. C. Since coming to the Spencer church he has led in an enlargement and progressive program. During his two years of service the church has contributed over \$6,000 for an enlarged educational division. A church brotherhood and a department of music have been organized, and new robes have been obtained for the three choirs, along with additional equipment for the music and educational departments of the church. Fifty-three members have been added to the membership of the church during this time.

In the service Sunday morning, H. D. Young, Sr., superintendent of the Sunday School, spoke words of appreciation to the retiring pastor in behalf of the church. He read, also, to the congregation a statement from the board of deacons expressing their deep appreciation to Mrs. Hicks for her splendid leadership in the music of the church.

In closing the service the pastor expressed his gratitude for the faithfulness of the Oakdale Church to the cause of Christ. He stated that "whatever good has come from our work together, it has been possible because of the loving spirit of cooperation which has been displayed throughout the church membership." He urged the church to continue its good work, and its devotion to the cause of Christ.

Rev. and Mrs. Hicks were given the privilege of remaining in the parsonage for several weeks after he completed his work here and after he began his work at the Stallings Memorial Church.

Brother and Mrs. Hicks have had a very fruitful ministry after leaving our church. From Oakdale they went to the Stallings Memorial Church in Salisbury where he served as minister of education, and from there he went to be pastor of the Bruner's Chapel Church, Harrodsburg, Ky. Later he came to the First Baptist Church, Old Fort, N. C., and from there he went to be pastor of the Mon-Aetna Baptist Church, Union, S. C. He was there a little over nine years. He is now at the Westwood Church in Asheville.

THE PASTOR WHO NEVER CAME

Early in May, 1947, the Pulpit Committee made a trip to Creedmore, N. C., to hear Rev. Linwood R. Jordan, pastor of the Creedmore Baptist Church. The committee was well pleased with him, and so were the deacons when they heard the report of the committee. At the invitation of the committee and the deacons, he came to Oakdale and preached on Sunday, May 25, 1947. He brought a good message. The service was appreciated by all people. At the close of the morning service, J. C. Copley, chairman of the deacons, called the church into conference for the purpose of extending a call to Mr. Jordan as pastor. The members voted unanimously to call him as pastor. This was done with a feeling of joy and delight. He accepted the call, and the members expected him to move on the field at an early date.

In preparation for the coming of the new pastor, improvements were made on the parsonage. Two coats of paint were put on the parsonage. This was done by Mr. J. L. Wyatt at \$1.25 per hour. The cost of painting the parsonage was \$274.00. The church voted also to pay the moving expense for the new pastor.

The members were disappointed when L. Y. Weant received a letter from Mr. Jordan stating that he had decided not to come and offering his resignation as pastor of the Oakdale Church.

REV. CLAY R. BARNES BECOMES PASTOR



REV. AND MRS. CLAY R. BARNES standing in front of their present home. He was pastor from September 1, 1947, until December 31, 1954.

We have failed to find any record directly concerning the call of Rev. Clay R. Barnes as pastor at Oakdale; however, we do have a letter from the deacons of East Hickory Baptist Church of which he was pastor that was written on August 31, 1947, and we have a letter from the pastors of South Fork Association stating that he was to begin his work at Oakdale about the first of September. We have talked with Brother Barnes, and he states that to the best of his memory he began his work here the first of September in 1947. He was present in the meeting of the deacons on September 4, 1947, and the minutes of the meeting of deacons on August 5, 1947, has a brief statement about his wishes concerning the parsonage. This indicates that the Oakdale Church called him as pastor the latter part of July or the first Sunday in August of 1947. We give here the letter from the deacons of the East Hickory Church to the Oakdale Church.

Rev. Clay R. Barnes came to our church as pastor about two years ago. Under his capable and consecrated leadership our church has made splendid progress spiritually, numerically, and financially. He has not only been a good pastor but has taken an active part in the Hickory Ministerial Association and has given full cooperation in our

associational work. It is with keen regret that we give him up to you and pray God's richest blessings upon you and him as under the leadership of the Holy Spirit he leads you to a deeper life with Christ and a greater work for him. The letter was signed by Fred Y. Stewart, J. F. Lutz, Jay Trogue, F. W. Stafford, M. R. Harrell, G. W. DeHart, and D. D. Granger.

Rev. J. Louis Price wrote the letter for the pastors of the South Fork Association on August 19, 1947, as follows:

The Baptist Pastors of the South Fork Association in their regular monthly meeting went on record expressing appreciation of Rev. Clay R. Barnes. Bro. Barnes came to our Association from the Emmanuel Baptist Church, Asheville. During the two years in our Association he has been a loyal member of our Pastors Conference and very active and cooperative in our whole Associational program.

During the two years in which he has been Pastor of the East Hickory Baptist Church, Hickory, he has made a splendid record. The Church has doubled in membership, and the offerings have more than doubled. Plans have been completed for a new auditorium. The Church gave more than two thousand dollars last year to the Cooperative Program.

While we regret to see him leave our Association and the East Hickory Church, we rejoice with him in the fine opportunity that has come to him in the call extended by Oakdale Baptist Church of Spencer, N. C., where he will move about the first of September.

His cheerful disposition, his fine Christian character and his fine cooperative spirit have made for him a big place in our hearts. We take pleasure in commending him to the Oakdale Baptist Church, to the Rowan Association and to the Pastors Conference of the Rowan Association.

We pray God's blessings upon him and his fine family as they go to the Oakdale Baptist Church.

Mrs. Herman Hood has given to us the news item that appeared in *The Salisbury Post* on Saturday before Mr. Barnes began his work at our church. It is as follows:

Rev. Clay R. Barnes, pastor of the East Hickory Baptist Church, has accepted a call as pastor of the Oakdale Baptist church and will occupy the pulpit tomorrow at both services.

The new minister has served as pastor of the East Hickory Baptist Church for the past two years, assuming the pastorate there from the Emmanuel Baptist Church in Asheville.

Mr. Barnes has already moved to Oakdale and is residing at Charles Street. He is married and is the father of three daughters.

Mr. Barnes was very active in the religious affairs in Hickory. He headed the committee which put on the daily vacation Bible Schools there during the summer which were attended by more than 2,000 boys and girls. He served on the county-wide committee on relief and rehabilitation to war-torn countries to which his own church gave \$1,800 and a large shipment of clothes.

DEDICATES NEW BUILDING



A side and rear view of the church that shows the new addition that was dedicated on June 5, 1949.

Perhaps the major project completed during the pastorate of Rev. Clay R. Barnes was the erection of the Educational Building. This effort started soon after the coming of Mr. Barnes, and the climax was reached on Sunday, June 5, 1949, when the new building was dedicated. We give here the account of this project as it was related in the news item in *The Salisbury Post* on May 29, 1949.

The Oakdale Baptist Church will observe its annual Homecoming Day on Sunday, June 5, at which time the new Educational Building, including a modern baptistry, will be dedicated.

The church was organized in 1925 with 33 charter members and from that time, has steadily grown until at present it has a membership of more than 400 and is one of the best equipped and most progressive Baptist Churches in the State. During the past 20 months, under the leadership of its present pastor, Rev. Clay R. Barnes, the church has enjoyed the most fruitful months in its history. Seventy-nine members have been received into the church.

Around \$1,500 has been spent on the parsonage and a new educational building and baptistry valued at approximately \$25,000 has just been completed. Also its gifts to missions have been more than doubled.

The dedication sermon will be delivered by M. A. Huggins, secretary of the Baptist State Convention, at the 11 o'clock service Sunday morning. A picnic dinner will be enjoyed at the close of the morning service.

The bulletin for June 5, 1945, fittingly points out that the pastor was due much credit and honor for what had been accomplished in the preceding months. We quote a statement from the bulletin.

We dedicate this bulletin and honor this day our Pastor who through his unwavering faith, determination and untiring efforts has led us in making our fondest dream a reality. What has been accomplished since he came to us almost two years ago is nothing less than miraculous. In addition to the new building, we have installed a heating plant and put tile in three rooms of the parsonage. Fifty members have been received into the Church by baptism and twenty-nine by letter and statement. Our gifts for missions have more than doubled and attendance in most of our organizations has almost doubled. We lift our voices in praise to God for all that has been accomplished and thank Him for His leadership.

Also on the front of the bulletin for that day is a very appropriate statement about the dedication of the building. It is as follows:

We who have long dreamed of, planned, prayed and sacrificed for, do this day offer to God this building which we have erected as a place of worship; as a place where His honor dwelleth. We dedicate this building that it may be for all people a house of prayer, that men may be conscious that God is in this place, that it may be to them none other than the house of God and the gate of heaven.

PLAYGROUND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Our church has taken an interest in the young people through the years. We give here a statement about the starting of a program of recreation.

Carey Broadway came before the Deacon Board to ask their support in preparing recreation ground for the Youth of our Church. This will be tennis, volley ball, and basketball court combined.

The above statement is taken from the minutes of the meeting of the deacons on March 8, 1948. In the minutes of the meeting on June 7, 1948, we find that J. C. Coppley reported to the deacons that all playground bills had been paid and that the young people were to buy their own supplies from there on.

TABLES MADE BY THE MEN

Through the years many supper meetings have been held at the Oakdale Church. For many years tables had to be improvised each time, but something was done about this just before the Rally Day in 1950. The deacons discussed this matter in their meeting on March 6, 1950, and Carl Hanes agreed to give the lumber and let the men use his workshop provided they would go over and help make the tables. This was done, and those tables are still in use. We regret that we do not have the names of the men who helped with the work.

CHURCH SIGN PUT UP

In January of 1950 the deacons recommended that a neon sign be put up at the entrance of Charles Street at a total cost of \$168.00. In the meeting of the deacons M. A. Agner had made the motion, and Lester Beck had seconded it. On a motion by Roy Young and seconded by Willie Burton, the church voted to have the sign fixed.

ELECTRIC ORGAN PURCHASED

Jake Walton, chairman of the Music Committee, met with the deacons in their regular meeting in March of 1951 and recommended that an electric organ be placed in the auditorium on a trial basis for several weeks. The organ he had in mind was sold by the Cannon-Jones Music Company in Charlotte at a cost of \$2,350.00. Upon a recommendation by the deacons and on a motion by Mrs. Jesse McBride, the church voted to have the organ installed. The following week members of the Music Committee went to Charlotte and looked at several different organs, and they decided that the Wurlitzer Organ would be more suitable for our use than the one previously considered. The cost of this organ was \$2,800.00, but Mr. Jones had agreed to sell it to the church for \$2,500.00. At a call conference on March 21, 1951, W. H. Wilson

made a motion that the Wurlitzer Organ be installed on a trial basis, and A. L. Walton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. The organ was first used on Sunday, April 8, 1951. At a call conference on April 15, 1951, upon a motion made by J. C. Coppley and seconded by A. L. Walton, the church voted unanimously to purchase the organ.

BUILDING FUND STARTED

In their regular meeting in November of 1951 the deacons voted to recommend that the church take \$500.00 from the regular treasury and place it in the Home Savings and Loan Association of Salisbury as "a special Building Fund for the Sunday School" and that this fund be added to each month as finances would permit. In the regular conference for the month Betty Ruth Smith made a motion that this recommendation be adopted, and Jake Walton seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

CONSTITUTION ADOPTED

In the bulletin for May 27, and June 3, 1951, and in the minutes of the conference meeting on June 6, 1951, we find information about the adoption of a constitution for the church. The committee to prepare the constitution was composed of R. L. Wyatt, Betty Ruth Smith, J. C. Coppley, and M. L. Smith. There was a lengthy discussion of the constitution, but after one or two changes were made, it was adopted on June 6, 1951.

ROTATING BOARD OF DEACONS

In reading the minutes of the meetings of the deacons, we have found many references and suggestions concerning the starting of a rotating Board of Deacons, and this was finally done on Sunday, September 30, 1951. In the bulletin for Sunday, September 16, 1951, we find the following statement relative to the deacons:

The following is a list of the present Deacon Board along with four new men that have been nominated to be qualified to serve as deacons if elected. Next Sunday every church member will have the opportunity to vote and the twelve men receiving the highest number of votes will serve as deacons during the next year. Ballots will be handed out with the bulletins next Sunday. The list of men named in the bulletin included M. A. Agner, Paul Barber, A. F. Coppley, J. C. Coppley, W. S. Easter, W. A. Hoffner, W. H. Mauldin, T. D. Poole, Paul Snider, A. L. Walton, L. Y. Weant, W. H. Wilson, C. W. Young, Fred P. Young, and H. D. Young.

A ballot with these names on it was included in the bulletin for the next Sunday, September 23, and the bulletin for Sunday, September 30, 1951, gave the results of the votes as follows:

The following is a list of deacons who were elected by the ballot at the morning worship service to set up a rotation Deacon Board: (Term expires Oct. 1, 1952) Paul Barber, M. A. Agner, W. H. Mauldin, A. F. Coppley. (Term expires Oct. 1, 1953) J. C. Coppley, Paul Snider, H. D. Young, Fred Young. (Term expires Oct. 1, 1954) W. S. Easter, A. L. Walton, T. D. Poole, W. H. Wilson.

NEW LIGHTS IN THE AUDITORIUM

In the regular conference meeting in December of 1951, the pastor stated that the Building Committee had recommended that new light fixtures be installed in the auditorium at a cost of \$500.00. The motion to have the new light fixtures installed was made by T. D. Poole and seconded by Lester Beck, and the church voted in favor of the motion.

HAND RAILS ON FRONT STEPS

In December of 1952 and again in May of 1953 the deacons discussed the matter of hand rails on the front steps of the building, and in the regular conference meeting in May of 1953 the church voted to have the hand rails put up. The cost was \$25.00.

FIRE ESCAPE FROM JUNIOR DEPARTMENT

In May of 1953 the deacons recommended that a fire escape be fixed outside the Junior Department at an estimated cost of \$350.00. Mrs. T. D. Poole made a motion that this be done, and Mrs. W. H. Wilson seconded it. The motion carried. This work was not done very quickly, but there is a note in the minutes of conference for April 1954 to the effect that this work should be completed within about a week. In the conference on September 8, 1954, Harvey Morgan made a motion that a door be fixed from the room leading to the fire escape, and Mrs. W. H. Wilson seconded it. The motion carried.

SPEAKERS IN AUDITORIUM

On June 17, 1953, the deacons recommended that two speakers be purchased and installed in the auditorium. There is no statement in the minutes about the approval of this recommendation; however, there is a record in the minutes of the conference on November 10, 1954, of a vote in favor of fixing a control switch on loud speaker in the Nursery. We know that the speakers were installed, and we are grateful for this equipment.

LOT NEXT TO CHURCH PURCHASED

On February 10, 1954, upon a recommendation made by the deacons, the church voted to purchase the lot next to the building. The motion to purchase the lot was made by Clifford Coppley and seconded by H. D. Young.

PEWS REFINISHED AND CARPET PURCHASED

On March 7, 1954, Mr. Barnes called the church into a business meeting to discuss the refinishing of the pews. The suggested cost of this refinishing job was \$560.00. The Building Committee recommended that this be done. They recommended also that a new carpet be purchased and the floors be refinished. There was a unanimous vote in favor of having this work done. This good work helped to give us a very attractive auditorium.

HOSPITAL BED PURCHASED

On April 7, 1954, the church voted to purchase a hospital bed and that Tommy Beck be placed in charge of the project. The motion was made to purchase the bed by J. C. Coppley, and it was seconded by Paul Barber.

THE RESIGNATION OF REV. CLAY R. BARNES

We give here the minutes of the special meeting held on December 12, 1954, when Mr. Barnes resigned as Pastor of the Oakdale Church.

The pastor, Rev. Clay R. Barnes, submitted his resignation, effective on or about January 1, 1955, to enter another field of work. The treasurer, Clifford Coppley, presided at this time, and he asked that a motion be made to accept the pastor's resignation since this was his desire. A motion was made and seconded that the resignation be accepted, but was not carried by a unanimous vote.

On Sunday, December 19, 1954, Mr. Barnes requested that a unanimous vote be given in accepting his resignation since it was definite that he was going into another field of service. The members responded to his request and made the vote unanimous.

In the bulletin for December 19, 1954, we find the following statement of good wishes for Mr. and Mrs. Barnes:

Last Sunday our pastor resigned to accept another field of service in God's Kingdom. We wish for him the very best and we pray that God will continue to bless him as His Servant. During his stay with us we are aware of many accomplishments in our Church, Association and community. To him and Mrs. Barnes we say thank you.

We add here that Rev. and Mrs. Barnes moved to Hendersonville, N. C., where he served very efficiently as missionary in the Carolina and Transylvania Baptist Associations. At this date, July 1968, he has retired, and they are living on Route 2, Salisbury, N. C.

THE MINISTRY OF THE PRESENT PASTOR



REV. AND MRS. H. M. HOCUTT AND CHILDREN: (left to right), Broadus, Cynthia, Kathryn, and Janice. His pastorate began May 1, 1955.

The present pastor, H. M. Hocutt, came to the Oakdale community for the first time on Saturday afternoon, February 12, 1955. He preached Sunday morning on "Paul's Prayer for the Collossian Christians," Colossians 1:9-12, and Sunday night on "Growing in Grace," 2 Peter 3:18. The church extended to him a call to become the pastor on Sunday morning, February 20, 1955. Rev. Earle L. Bradley was present to preach that Sunday, and he presided over the conference. The motion to extend the call was made by W. H. Mauldin and seconded by Harvey E. Morgan. He came to the Oakdale Church from Asheville where he had served as missionary and clerk in the Buncombe Association for ten years.

The pastor and his family came to Oakdale on Saturday, March 13, so the members of the family could see the church and home and look over the community. When they arrived, they found that many of the members had prepared a big dinner in the basement of the church and were waiting to give him and his family a welcome. This was a pleasant surprise. Due to previous commitments, it was not possible for the pastor to begin his work at Oakdale until the first Sunday in May; however, he was able to come and preach a few

Sundays prior to that date. The family moved into the pastor's home on Thursday, April 28; and when they arrived, they found some men ready to help place the furniture in the house and some of the ladies ready to help unpack the dishes and other things and to put them in their places. Much work had been done on the home at a cost of approximately \$1,000.00. The wall paper had been replaced with sheet rock, and hard wood floors had been put in three rooms downstairs. All of the walls had been painted. On the recommendation of the deacons, a "pantry shower" had been given by the church members and friends, and it was at the home when the pastor and his family arrived.

The churches of the Rowan Association were in the midst of simultaneous revivals when the pastor arrived, and by previous arrangements, he began a week of revival services on the first Sunday in May.

In the following paragraphs we give a record of the main events of the last thirteen years since the coming of the present pastor. In the conference meeting on Sunday, May 15, 1955, approval was given for the starting of a monthly newsletter that has been called *Oakdale Echoes*. Since that date *The Echoes* have been mailed regularly to the homes of the members and to many former members who have moved away. They have been mailed also to the men in service and to the students in school away from home. This has proven to be a big help in promoting the work and in keeping the people informed about weddings, births, deaths and other things of interest in the church family.

At the suggestion of the pastor, the church voted on June 8, 1955, on a motion by Lester Smith and second by W. H. Wilson, to purchase audio-visual equipment; and a Bell and Howell 16 millimeter sound projector was purchased along with a projector for slides and filmstrips. This equipment has been used through the years, and it has been very helpful.

Mention has been made elsewhere about the Sunday School Revival held in July, 1955. Some suggestions were made by the workers who were with us that week about some changes in the basement that could give better use of the space for Sunday School classes. Much study was given to this matter, and some changes were made in the plans as suggested by the workers. On November 9, 1955, the church voted unanimously to approve the final plans as presented for changes in the basement and in the rooms on either side of the auditorium. This work was done at a cost of about \$3,186.00.

On December 5, 1956, the church voted on the recommendation of the deacons to repair the neon sign at the highway, and a modern bulletin board was put up in the place of the neon sign.

The deacons brought a recommendation on November 7, 1956, that additional space be graded for a parking area. This was approved on a motion by T. D. Poole that was seconded by Mrs. Ralph Lingle.

On March 5, 1958, the decision was made to put gravel on the parking lot.

In June of 1957 Charles Call and the pastor made seven new tables to be used in the Vacation Bible School and to be used on occasions when meals would be served. The materials used in making the tables were paid for by the church. At a later date, J. C. Coppley and the pastor fixed some similar tables for use in the rooms of the Junior Department of the Sunday School.

At the Sunday morning service on December 22, 1957, the church presented to the pastor and his family a new Chevrolet as a Christmas gift. This matter had been discussed in several meetings just prior to this time, after the pastor and his family had been excused. No hint was made about what was being planned, and the gift came as a very pleasant surprise. There was no vacant seat in the auditorium that Sunday morning. Paul Barber, the chairman of the deacons, told the pastor that he wanted a little time at the close of the service. He called the pastor and his wife to the front of the pulpit, and two men came down the aisle unwinding two roles of ribbon. One was given to the pastor and the other to his wife, and they were told that the one who could rewind the ribbon and reach the object to which it was fastened the quickest would be presented with an envelope that contained a prized possession.

We are not right sure just now who got there first because there was so much excitement when they got to the door and saw a new 1958 Chevrolet parked right in front of the church. The car is still in use, and it has given about the best service at the least expense of any car the pastor has owned.

A much-needed improvement came in April of 1959 when metal folding chairs were purchased for the prayer room. The chairs replaced some benches that had to be moved out each time the room was used for any supper or social function. The money to purchase the chairs was secured by special donations.

On April 6, 1960, the church voted to have the wood work on the outside of the church building painted, and in June of that year the sign with the name of the church on it was put on the lawn in front of the church. The sign was painted without charge by Ben Foreman, son-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Agner.

In June of 1961 all the inside and the trim wood on the outside of the pastor's home was painted, and in September of the same year the coal furnace was replaced with an oil furnace.

On April 6, 1966, the church voted to purchase the lot in front of the pastor's home from Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Nevins at a cost of \$1,500.00. The lot is between the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nevins and the alley that connects Charles and Herman Streets.

During the early part of 1956 the pastor was sick and was out of the pulpit for eleven weeks. Chaplain B. S. Patrick of the Baptist

Hospital in Winston-Salem, N. C., served as supply pastor most of the time while the pastor was out. On December 18, 1967, the pastor had a heart attack while on a trip to Burgaw for a wedding, and he was taken to the Sampson Memorial Hospital in Clinton where he remained until January 18, 1968. He was not able to return to his duties until the first of April of that year. Chaplain William E. Haltom of the V. A. Hospital in Salisbury, a member of the Oakdale Church, preached for us during those weeks while the pastor was out. The good people of the church paid the pastor's salary in full and the supply while the pastor was out on both occasions. The church also paid the cost of the ambulance when the pastor was brought home from Clinton. As an expression of appreciation for this kindness by the members of the church, the pastor and Mrs. Hocutt purchased eight folding tables for use by the church.

During March and April of 1968 several of the men of the church took it upon themselves to make some needed improvements about the building with the church paying for the materials used. Several of the rooms and some of the halls were painted. The most noted improvement was made in the Ladies' Rest Room. The ladies are happy indeed about the changes and improvements made there.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL



HUGH D. YOUNG: charter member and served as Sunday School superintendent from the time of the organization of the church in 1925 until October of 1953. He was a deacon much of the time. He died on March 17, 1964.

In the very beginning we gave information about the Sunday School at the Smith School House and at the Oakdale School House. This means that the history of the Sunday School goes back to several

years before the organization of the church, and it means that the Sunday School provided the background out of which the Oakdale Church came into being. Through these years since the organization of the church, the Sunday School has been a most vital part of the life of the church. This being true, to write a detailed history of our Sunday School would require the repeating of much information that has been given already. At this point we shall give the names of those who have served as superintendent along with a record of some special events or achievements.

The superintendent of the Sunday School at the time of the organization of the Oakdale Church was Adam L. Walton. He did not come with the new church for some while, and Hugh D. Young, then a young man and one of the charter members, was chosen as the superintendent. He continued to serve until October of 1953, and since that date the following men have served in this way: Leo Wyatt, 1953 to 1955; Paul Hinkle, 1955 to 1959; Raymond C. Poole, 1959 to



Picture of Honor Class taken at Christmas dinner 1966: back row (left to right), Mrs. H. D. Arrants, Mrs. W. S. Easter, Mrs. W. H. Wilson (teacher), Mrs. L. C. Rodgers, Mrs. Hugh Young, Mrs. Carl Hanes, Mrs. A. L. Walton; second row, Mrs. Ethel Keyes, Mrs. A. B. Beck, Mrs. L. W. Potter, Mrs. Lee Snyder, Mrs. Harvey Morgan, Mrs. Carl Young, Mrs. W. G. Grubb; sitting in front, Mrs. J. L. Brooks, Mrs. M. L. Smith, Mrs. J. R. Burton, Mrs. Raymond Wilson, Mrs. Frank Shuping, Mrs. A. P. Snider, Sr., and Mrs. S. M. Wheeler, Sr.

Carlyle Campbell Library

Meredith College

Raleigh, N. C.

1961; Jimmv Young, 1961 to 1965; and Paul Hinkle, 1965 to the present. The change in each case took place the first of October, the beginning of the associational year.

The first record we have of the Sunday School enrolment was when the report was made to the association in the fall of 1926. The enrolment at that time was 189. In the report to the association in 1959, the enrolment was given as 493. This is the highest record we have found. The highest average attendance we have found was 303 for the calendar year of 1959. It was about that time that the major part of the Southern Railway Shops located in Spencer was moved to Atlanta and Chattanooga. This change resulted in the loss of several families connected with our Oakdale Church. Since that date the attendance has shown a decrease. The report to the association in 1967 gives an enrolment of 365 and an average attendance of 214.

A Sunday School Revival was held the week of July 9-15, 1955. Our State Sunday School Department provided for us the following leaders to work with our officers and teachers: Adult and Young People, Rev. Jack R. Bagwell of Morganton; Intermediate and Junior, Mrs. Tillie G. Mayberry of Raleigh; Primary and Beginner, Miss Ruth Spence of Garner; and Nursery and Cradle Roll, Miss Elizabeth Nuckols of Columbia. Miss Ruth Bagwell, our missionary in the Rowan Association, and Mrs. Lester Hayes of Salisbury taught courses for the Juniors and Intermediates.

Another Sunday School Revival was held the week of February 24-28, 1958, with the emphasis on teaching. Several workers from neighboring Baptist churches helped us as follows: Extension Department, Mrs. J. M. Gup-ton. First Church of Salisbury; Adults, Dr. Clyde D. Chapman, First Church of Spencer; Young People, Mrs. E. Carr Choate, First Church of Salisbury; Intermediate teachers and officers, Rev. Robert M. Winecoff, West Corinth Church; Junior officers and teachers, Mrs. S. S. Dibrel, First Church of Salisbury; Primary workers, Mrs. Dale Hooper, Calvary Church; Beginner workers, Mrs. B. Lester Huff, Faith Church; Nursery workers, Mrs. S. W. Gudger, Stallings Memorial Church. Rev. John E. Carter, our missionary in the Rowan Association, taught a Training Union course for the Junior boys and girls, and Mrs. John E. Carter taught a similar course for the Intermediates.

We would like so very much to give here the names of the good and faithful people who through the years have given of their time and talents as teachers and officers in the Sunday School, but space will not permit. There have been many who are worthy of special mention. Perhaps the person with the longest record is Mrs. Ray Grubb, Sr. She started teaching the first Sunday in June, 1927, and she has been teaching at Oakdale since that date, a little over forty years now. Most of that time she has taught Junior girls, but she taught in the Nursery and Beginner Departments for a few years.

THE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



The Vacation Bible School in 1959. The enrollment was 199 and the average attendance 167.

The first Vacation Bible School was held in the summer of 1940. That was while Rev. R. O. Brinkley was the pastor. The enrolment of the school that year was 119, and the average attendance was 89. A school has been held each year since that date. In June of 1959 we had 199 enrolled in the Bible School with an average attendance of 167. This is the highest enrollment on record. Since that date the enrollment has shown a decline. In 1963 the enrolment was 154 and the average attendance 123, and in 1967 the enrolment was 101 with an average attendance of 86. We had a standard school in each of the years of 1958, 1959, and 1960. For a year or two while Mrs. Carl Hanes served as the principal, the school attained the grade of AA, right next to being standard.

The following people have served as principal of the Bible School: Rev. R. O. Brinkley, 1940-1944; Mrs. John G. Hicks, 1945-1946; Miss Polly Wilder, 1947; Mrs. Carl Hanes 1948-1952; Mrs. H. H. Raper, 1953-1955; Miss Ruth Bagwell, 1956; and Rev. H. M. Hocutt, 1957 to the present.

The Bible School has provided three hours of Bible study a day for the boys and girls from three through 16 years of age. Most of the schools have been ten-day schools. These hours have been filled with a worship service, Bible study, character stories, mission

study, and handwork. Much that the young people have learned will linger with them through the years. In their handwork they have made things that they will keep and cherish through the years because they made them in their youth in the Bible School.

Each year at the beginning of the school we have had a parade, and on several occasions the chief of police of Spencer would lead the parade. Usually his car was filled to the limit with boys and girls who wanted him to keep blowing his siren. At the close of the school each year we have had a picnic when many of the parents would come and bring something for the lunch. The school closed out each year with a commencement program held either Friday or Sunday night.

Usually the offering in the worship service has gone through the Cooperative Program. This has helped the boys and girls to understand something of our mission work and how we support it. One of the very important events in each school has been the day when we talked with the Juniors and Intermediates about what it means to be a Christian. This has proven to be a good evangelistic service. Many of our new converts in recent years have come from the Bible School.

THE BAPTIST TRAINING UNION

The Training Union has played a very definite part in the life and work of our Oakdale Church. The first record we have been able to find is in *The Minutes of the South Yadkin Association* for 1927. Mr. A. L. Walton was listed as the B. Y. P. U. leader in our church. The report for that year shows that we had then a Senior, an Intermediate, and a Junior union with a total of 58 enrolled.

In their meeting on May 14, 1931, the deacons discussed the financial condition of the B. Y. P. U. They decided that all the unions should put their offerings into the church treasury and let the church pay all the expenses.

In *The Minutes of the Rowan Association* for 1933, one union was reported as standard, but it was not indicated which union that was. In 1942 two unions were reported as A-1 for a quarter.

Several people have taken part in the Training Union Tournaments. We quote here a statement from the church bulletin for April 28, 1946, about Jean Harris.

We congratulate Miss Jean Harris upon winning out in the Regional B.T.U. Better Speaking contest. Her subject was "Christ Above All in Education." She will represent us next at Ridgecrest where she will compete with speakers from all over the state.

We quote also from the bulletin for April 30, 1950, concerning Sue Wilson and Lois Coleman.



The first Training Union group to go to Ridgecrest, July 5-9, 1941. In the picture are Dorothy Beck, Ruth Beck, Vera Lanning, Margaret Green, Mrs. Beulah Clarke, Ethlyn Barnhardt, Jennie Towson, Jean Harris, Rosa Leigh Lassiter, Ruth Snider, Dorothy Waller, Betty Joe Green, Frances Easter, Carey Lee Broadway, Betty Sue Young, and Lenora Young. Betty Ruth Smith took the picture. Miss Ruth Snider was Training Union director at the time.



Congratulations to Sue Wilson and Lois Coleman who were winners in the Junior Memory Work Tournament at Leaksville last Saturday. They will represent us at the State Assembly this summer.

In the spring of 1957, Jovce Smith, now Mrs. Doyle Corwin, was the winner of the Better Speakers contest in the Rowan Association, and she represented the Oakdale Church and the Association in the Regional Training Union meeting. On April 2 1959, Mrs. Ralph Long won the second place in the Adult Scripture Reading Tournament of the Association. Three Juniors from our church have been four-year winners in the State Junior Memory Work Tournaments. Cynthia Ann Hocutt finished her four years as a state winner at the Fruitland Assembly on June 20, 1961; Broadus Hocutt completed his four years at the Caswell Assembly in June of 1963; and Keith Corriher completed his four years at the Fruitland Assembly in June of 1966. Kathryn Mae Hocutt finished three years as a state winner at the Caswell Assembly on July 21, 1959, and Michael Wheeler and Janice Wheeler were state winners for one year on that day. Janice Hocutt finished one year as a state winner at the Caswell Assembly in June of 1963.

We give here information about the leaders in the Training Union as we have been able to find it. Already we have stated that A. L. Walton was the leader in 1927. The next information we have found is that H. D. Young was the director in 1930 and Johnny Walser in 1931. We jump then to the year of 1940. The directors from that date to the present have been as follows: Ruth Snider, 1940 and 1941; Beulah Clark, 1942; Betty Ruth Smith, 1943 through 1945; Mrs. H. H. Raper, 1946 and 1947; Betty Ruth Smith, 1948 and 1949; Elvin B. Arrants, 1950; Betty Ruth Smith, 1951 and 1952; Mildred Morrow, 1953; Paul Barber, 1954 through 1956; Junius Corriher, 1957 through 1960; Mrs. H. H. Raper, 1961 through 1963; Harold Lingle, 1964 and 1965; and Junius Corriher, 1966 to the present. The highest enrolment was in 1959 when we had 152 on roll with an average attendance of 106. We had eight units of organization reported from 1959 through 1963. In 1967 the enrolment was 87, and the average attendance was 52. Much of this information was taken from *The Minutes of the Rowan Association*.

After the above history of the Training Union was prepared, Clifford Copley told us that the very first Training Union work at the Oakdale Church began when a group of Young People met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adam L. Walton where Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence W. Potter now live at 512 N. Salisbury Avenue and organized what was then known as a B. Y. P. U. The officers were as follows: president, Miss Bernice Pardue, a niece of L. R. Smithey; vice president, Clifford Copley; secretary, Johnny Walton; treasurer, Laura Easter; group captain, Lee Poole; advisor, Mrs. L. R. Smithey. There was another group captain, but Mr. Copley does not remember the name. There were about a dozen in this group that started about the time or before the church moved into the new building in 1926.

W.M.U. and YOUNG PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS

The following is given from a brief history that Mrs. H. L. Greene wrote concerning the organization of the W. M. U.:

THE BEGINNING OF A W. M. U. AT OAKDALE

"A group of women met at the home of Mrs. H. L. Greene to organize the W. M. U. on February 9, 1926. Mrs. A. F. Newcomb and Mrs. J. H. Kenerly came from Circle No. 2 of the First Baptist Church, Spencer and aided in organizing. They read a passage of scripture and had a prayer. then read the by-laws of the W.M.U. There were five members from the first meeting so far as I can remember: Mrs. T. D. Greene, Mrs. W. L. Beck, Mrs. T. B. Smithey, Mrs. L. R. Smithey or Mrs. W. G. Grubb, and Mrs. H. L. Greene. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. L. R. Smithey; Vice-President, Mrs. W. G. Grubb; Treasurer, Mrs. T. B. Smithey; Secretary, Mrs. H. L. Greene. The first meeting was at Mrs. A. L. Walton's home later in February with nine members present."

Busy days followed with the women of the W. M. U. working diligently to help pay for their new church building. They prepared chicken dinners and served them at noon at the Finishing Company and Railroad Shops. Much of the food was donated and the women gathered at the home of Brother and Mrs. W. C. Barnhardt usually to prepare the plates. The preacher would load his car and, along with others, deliver the dinners and collect the money. This wasn't an easy task and everything didn't run smooth all of the time because Mrs. L. R. Smithey recalls that on one occasion the good women left the potato salad in a tin tub and many people became sick. They planned hotdog and hamburger suppers with homemade icecream and usually had one once a month to raise money for the building fund. Those who remember will to this day declare they have never tasted hotdogs and hamburgers as good as those five cent ones!

The circle was later named "The Fannie Greene Circle" after one of their beloved charter members who went home to be with God and was the first one to be buried in the Oakdale Cemetery. The Circle also gave a memorial window in the Church in memory of Mrs. Fannie Greene. The growth of this group and interest in missions revealed the need for another Circle to be organized. The organizational meeting of the Ann Judson Circle was held at the home of Mrs. Fred Poole on North Salisbury Ave.

The first Girl's Auxiliary was organized on January 26, 1937 and we quote from the Spencer News of the *Salisbury Evening Post* concerning this: "The Intermediate girls of the Oakdale Baptist Church in Spencer met with Mrs. K. D. Stukenbrok at the home of Misses Helen and Irene Beck in the Oakdale section of Spencer Monday night to organize a Girls' Auxiliary. Mrs. Stukenbrok and



A group at a Y. W. A. banquet in 1962: (reading from the left), Mrs. J. H. Bartlett (Faye Smith), Mrs. Ronald Hall (Eliza Green), Mrs. Robert Poole (Beverly Lanning), Mrs. Jake Walton, the leader, Mrs. Larry Eller (Christine Agner), Mrs. Donald Graham (Sandra Agner), Mrs. Freddie Bailey (Martha Jane Walton), Mrs. Marvin Poole (Joyce G. Smith).

Mrs. E. L. Bradley explained the functions and duties of an Auxiliary. Following their talk the officers were elected as follows: Counselor, Miss Ruth Snider; President, Miss Katherine Smith; Vice-President, Miss Helen Beck; Secretary, Miss Irene Beck; Treasurer, Miss Louise Copley; Chairman of Personal Service, Miss Juanita Wallace. After the business session the party enjoyed a social hour during which delicious refreshments were served."

The Y.W.A. was organized around 1938 when a group of young women from our Church met with a group from the First Baptist Church in Spencer at the home of Miss Virginia Neister. Mrs. K. D. Stukenbrok from the First Church, Spencer helped in setting up the organization. Mrs. Ed Craver was elected Counselor and Miss Pauline Poole, President. Mrs. Craver was unable to serve as Counselor and Mrs. Leonard Clark was elected as Counselor. This was a very active group and several of the members attended Y. W. A. Week at Ridgecrest being the first perhaps from our Church to attend one of our Assemblies for a full week.

With two circles and some organizations for our young people, it was decided that our mission program should be organized into

a W.M.S. This was done in 1941 and Mrs. R. O. Brinkley, our Pastor's wife, was elected President and it was decided that a general meeting would be held once each month.

Boys, too, need to study missions and become mission minded so a Royal Ambassador Group for boys 9-16 was formed with Miss Alma Hinkle serving as Counselor.

"Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" has been silent around our Oakdale Church since the days of the B.Y.P.U. when the group called "Sunbeams" met on Sunday evening before the Worship Service with Mrs. M. A. Agner and Mrs. Lillian Kesler leading. Two Sunbeam groups were organized to meet once a month during the Morning Worship Hour. Many wonderful things could be told about experiences in the Sunbeam Bands and that group of faithful leaders who through the years have helped our little children become mission minded.

In addition to the existing Intermediate G. A., a Junior G. A. was organized for girls 9-12. A new circle was organized and named "Louise Stukenbrok Circle" in honor of Mrs. K. D. Stukenbrok who through the years had meant so much in the life and work of our W. M. S. and though from another Church was always ready and willing to help in the work at Oakdale. The women of the Yadkin community, across the river, and the northern end of our community organized a Circle and named it the "Lottie Moon Circle". The Annie Armstrong Circle was organized about the same time for those in the Dukeville and Long Ferry Road area. Some of the good women remembered that there was a group of ladies who were shut-ins most of the time and unable to attend a missionary meeting so suggestion was made and accepted to list these names as the "Effie Barnhardt Circle" which was named for Mrs. W. C. Barnhardt who had been a tireless worker in all phases of the life and work of our church, who was now deceased. The members of the active circles would choose names from this list and remember the woman from time to time with visits, remembrances, etc. The group in the Y. W. A. were most active and their gifts to missions were leading all the Y. W. A. groups in Rowan Association. Many of them had married and all of them had gotten older but they enjoyed their Y. W. A. so much that it was almost heartbreaking when they faced the fact that they should organize into a Circle since the Y. W. A. was a mission organization for single young women ages 17-24. The Circle was promoted out of the Y. W. A. in Oct., 1956 and named the "Ruth Bagwell Circle" for our beloved Associational Missionary who labored so faithfully in our midst. The Judson Circle grew beyond meeting space in homes so the "Elease Bradley" Circle was formed in Sept., 1960 out of this group and was named for the wife of one of our pastors who labored so faithfully in the early years of our Church. With the organization of this Circle, we now have seven active Circles and one Circle for shut-ins.

The women of the W. M. S. have through years maintained the kitchen in the Church. A need to prepare refreshments for social



G. A. Coronation Service held on August 23, 1959. See record of first G. A. Coronation Service for names of those in the picture.



Picture of WMU presidents taken April 18, 1963, when the 75th anniversary of the organization of the WMU was celebrated: (left to right), Mrs. Ray Harris, Mrs. Luther Weant, Mrs. Lee Noles, Mrs. Ralph Lingle, Mrs. Lee Feezor, Mrs. Hartford Raper, and Mrs. Junius Corriher. This does not include all the presidents.

gatherings and knowing that "Baptists like to eat" necessitated the first kitchen which was located where the men's restroom is now. It was by no means modern but the women got busy and got things donated and bought some things. The kitchen was later moved to the first Intermediate Classroom on the right in the Intermediate Department. When the new addition was built the women made sure that the plans called for a kitchen with built-in cabinets and a sink! (before water had been carried to the kitchen for dishwashing). The ladies of the W. M. S. bought the electric stove for the new kitchen and some dishes and silverware. We are sure that Mr. Raper gave them a good price and donated some too!

The W. M. S. bought the silver flower urn for altar table in the church auditorium and in 1951 the first Church W. M. U. Yearbook was mimeographed through the efforts of Mrs. Harrell Lanning, Community Missions Chairman, and even unto this day through the efforts of many, many more, it is a "must" in the life and work of the W. M. U. In 1953, the W. M. U. gave \$293.00 to the Lottie Moon Offering for foreign missions at Christmas, and the concern was so great that they inspired the Church to vote to give \$300.00 each year to this offering for foreign missions.

An important event to be remembered in the history of our W. M. U. is the first G. A. Coronation Service which was held on Sunday, August 23, 1959. The purpose of a Coronation Service is to recognize the girls who have learned Scripture and important events and facts pertaining to missions. They work on these steps at their meetings held during the year and come before a reviewing council that is composed of W. M. S. members to pass off their steps. The following received recognition and had a part in this first Coronation: Maidens-Janice Wheeler, Kay Poole, Judy Rickard, and Brenda Hall. Ladies-in-Waiting - Judy Scott, Terry Raper, Cynthia Hocutt, Sue Snider, Jenny Snider, Judy Raper, Sylvia Smith, Linda Smith, and Beth Wheeler. Princesses - Sally Smith, Sally Green, and Kathryn Hocutt. Queens - Nancy Feezor and Sylvia Raper. Crown Bearers - Susan Snider and Myra Long. Flower Girls - Kathy Smith and Ellen Raper. Ushers - Carolyn Smith, Betsy Smith, Patsy Nesbitt and Linda Snider. Candle Lighters - Marian Poole and Beverly Lanning. Trumpeter - Michael Wheeler. Organist - Joyce A. Smith. W. M. U. President - Mrs. Lee Noles. G. A. Leaders - Mrs. Clyde Raper, Mrs. Charles Call, Mrs. H. M. Hocutt, Mrs. Robert Arey, Mrs. A. P. Snider, Jr. and Mrs. Lee Poole. At this time there was an Intermediate G. A. and two Junior G. A.'s one for girls 9 and 10, one for girls 11 and 12.

The next Coronation was held on Sunday, May 17, 1964 and the following were recognized: Maidens - Christie Long, Earlene Hall, Linda Swinson, Sandra Swinson, Gail Brown, and Vickie Beck. Ladies-in-Waiting - Lynne Raper, Susan Snider, Brenda Hall, Jana Lanning, Beverly Poole, Rhonda Rickard, and Kathy Smith. Princesses - Sue Snider and Janice Hocutt. Queens - Judith Raper and Cynthia Hocutt. Many faithful women have worked with the G. A.'s but our Pastor's

wife, Mrs. H. M. Hocutt, has given endless time in the years that they have been with us in G. A. work. During the year, 1966-67, she worked with both the Junior and Intermediate G. A. groups in addition to the many, many other responsibilities that she has in the church.

A third Coronation Service was held on Sunday night, May 22, 1966. Those recognized as Maidens were Donna Fave Beck, Peggv Lingle, Cheryl Long, Cathv Parris, Penny Snider, and Vivian Richardson. The Ladies-in-Waiting were Earlene Hall and Christie Long. Lynne Raper and Janice Hocutt received their crowns as Queens, and Janice Hocutt received the award of Queen-in-Service. Kelly Lanning and Trudy Gale were flower girls, and Ricky Raper and Barry Corriher were crown bearers.

Were you there? . . . well if you were not, you missed something when the women of our W. M. U. observed the 75th Anniversary of the organization of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. This was held in the little auditorium on April 18, 1963 with a well planned program, the dresses, hats and other paraphnelia you've never seen the like! Our women were proud to be a part of an organization that admonished them to "Go, preach, teach and heal in the name of Christ."

A lot of things to be remembered in W. M. U. work . . . Mother-Daughter Banquets, Father-Son Banquets, G. A. Focus Week, Weeks of Prayer Programs, Mission Study Classes, W. M. U. and Circle Programs, Stewardship of time and money. Truly, from that day, February 9, 1926 to this day, it has been "Laborers Together With God."

W. M. U. PRESIDENTS

1926	Mrs. L. R. Smithey	1940	Mrs. Ed Lanning
	(One Circle)	1941	Mrs. R. O. Brinkley
1927	Mrs. L. R. Smithey		(Two or More Cricles)
1928		1942	Mrs. R. O. Brinkley
1929		1943	Mrs. W. R. Harris
1930	Mrs. H. L. Green	1944	Mrs. L. Y. Weant
	Mrs. M. A. Agner	1945	Mrs. L. Y. Weant
1931	Mrs. H. L. Green	1946	Mrs. L. Y. Weant
1932		1947	Mrs. W. R. Harris
1933		1948	Mrs. W. R. Harris
1934		1949	Mrs. E. L. Feezor
1935		1950	Mrs. E. L. Feezor
1936	Mrs. M. A. Agner	1951	Mrs. E. L. Feezor
	(One Circle)	1952	Mrs. E. L. Feezor
1937	Mrs. M. A. Agner	1953	Mrs. Irene Byerly
1938	Mrs. M. A. Agner	1954	Mrs. Ralph Lingle
1939	Mrs. M. A. Agner	1955	Mrs. H. H. Raper

1956	Mrs. Charles Call	1963	Mrs. Junius Corriher
1957	Mrs. Charles Call	1964	Mrs. Junius Corriher
1958	Mrs. Lee Noles	1965	Mrs. Jacob Walton
1959	Mrs. Lee Noles	1966	Mrs. Jacob Walton
1960	Mrs. Lee Noles	1967	Mrs. Jacob Walton
1961	Mrs. Lee Noles	1968	Mrs. Lee Noles
1962	Mrs. Junius Corriher		

OUR RECORD

1955		1965	
W. M. S. Members	77	W. M. S. Members	106
Y. W. A. Members	16	Y. W. A. Members	10
G. A. Members	33	G. A. Members	25
R. A. Members	16	R. A. (Sponsored by	
Sunbeam Members	29	Brotherhood)	21
Lottie Moon Offering	\$765.27	Sunbeam Members	26
		Lottie Moon Offering	\$1,106.89

THE BROTHERHOOD

At least two attempts have been made to have a good Brotherhood at our church, but after some years of work, the organization fell by the wayside each time. In the minutes for the meeting of the deacons on October 8, 1945, the matter of the Brotherhood was discussed, and upon a motion made by W. H. Mauldin and seconded by A. B. Beck, the deacons voted to recommend the organization of a Brotherhood immediately. The deacons appointed a committee composed of Rev. John G. Hicks, J. C. Copley, and L. Y. Weant to work out plans for the organization. Most of the information available concerning the organization comes from the records of the Rowan Association. In 1948 Charles Call was the president, and there were 31 members enrolled. Mr. Call served as president for two years. K. H. Williams was elected president in 1951, Scott Huffman in 1953, and Roy B. Young in 1954. In 1951 the Brotherhood installed the water cooler in the basement at a cost of about \$200.00.

The second attempt at Brotherhood work started in 1957 with W. H. Wilson as the president. The report for that year shows an enrollment of 39 men with 36 in the Royal Ambassadors. Others who served as president were Tommy Beck in 1958 and 1959, A. P. Snider, Jr., in 1960, and Charles Call in 1961 and 1962. No man was found to serve as president after that date, and after a number of meetings with poor attendance, the organization stopped.

The work of the Royal Ambassadors has been carried on in a



A Brotherhood and Royal Ambassador banquet in 1963.

limited way since the Brotherhood stopped by a number of men who would give their time to it. At present Junius Corriher, Paul Adams, Eugene Barber, and the pastor are working with the boys.

For four consecutive years, when the interest and attendance were good, a "Brotherhood Man of the Year" was chosen by secret ballot by the men. This was done without any nominations. Each member of the organization voted for the man who in his opinion had rendered the best service in the work of the brotherhood and in the work in general through the year. The following men were chosen in this way: 1958, W. H. Wilson; 1959, Tommy Beck; 1960, A. P. Snider, Jr.; and 1961, A. P. Snider, Jr.

Our Brotherhood sponsored a Layman's Revival from Wednesday night through Sunday night, September 7-11, 1959. We had Gary Harthcock of Hendersonville and Bill Evans of Charlotte with us to lead in the services, and we had some good men from other places who came and helped in the visiting. A different layman spoke each night. These services proved to be very helpful.

In 1960 the Brotherhood purchased a tape recorder for use in taking the Sunday service to the shut-ins and others who were unable to attend the regular service. The cost of the recorder was close to \$150.00.



Oakdaleans who shared in the Bicentennial Celebration of Rowan County April 12-18, 1953: standing (left to right), Clyde Raper, Lewis West, Sr., Jones Leonard, Hartford Raper, C. C. Smith; sitting, Lee Feezor, W. A. Hoffner, Leo Wyatt, G. C. Carlan, Scott Huffman, A. L. Walton, Jake Walton, V. B. Wagner, Clifford Copley, and Joe Green. The picture was taken in the basement of the church.

THE MEN'S CHORUS



Men's Chorus: back row (left to right), Roy Young, Sr., Ralph Long, Charles Call, Jr., Charles Call, Sr.; middle row, Jake Walton, A. P. Snider, Jr., Robert Snyder, Herman Grubb; front row, Reid Shinn, Harold Lingle, O. D. Snyder, and Lee Snyder. Some of the members were not present.

For a little over three years, beginning in April of 1957, we had an active Men's Chorus. It grew out of the work of the Brotherhood, and for a while it was called the Brotherhood Men's Chorus. The group met for about an hour of rehearsal once each week with Mrs. William Wheeler as the pianist. The group developed in interest and in musical training. Usually there were from twelve to sixteen in each meeting. Quite frequently the men sang for us at the Oakdale Church, and they were in demand in other churches and in associational meetings. They were called upon many times to sing in revival services. For some few months the men met at 7:30 each Wednesday night, and Dr. Wigginton gave some time to them before the regular choir rehearsal. Several of the active men in the chorus moved away when the Southern Railroad Company moved most of the work from the Spencer Shops to other points, and this work ceased during the summer of 1960.

CHORISTER, MUSIC DIRECTOR, AND MUSIC INSTRUCTOR

Mr. Herman L. Greene tells us that he began serving as choir director while the group was meeting in the Oakdale School House. He continued to serve in this capacity until October, 1933, when Ed Young was elected as chorister. We do not know just how long he served, but the records show that Carl W. Young was elected as chorister in the fall of 1936. He served through 1944. In the fall of 1948 Ed Young was elected as director of music, and from that time the term "director of music" was used. Hugh Young was the director of music in 1949 with Jake Walton as the assistant. Jake Walton was elected to this position in the fall of 1950, and he has continued to serve until the present. For three years Hugh Young was the assistant. In the fall of 1945 Mrs. W. R. Julian was chosen as the assistant, and she has been re-elected each year since that date.

On November 7, 1948, the deacons voted to recommend that Mrs. Herbert Jones be employed as music instructor to work with the choir at a salary of \$25.00 per month. She was employed, and in January, 1951, the salary was raised to \$30.00 per month. She did not serve very long, but we are not sure of the exact date of her resignation.

On November 6, 1952, the church voted to employ Dr. Marvin D. Wigginton of Catawba College to serve as music instructor at a salary of \$40.00 to begin with. He began his work on September 17, 1952. Since that date his salary has been raised to \$62.50 per month. On September 17, 1967, the following statement was in the bulletin about Dr. Wigginton:

We are putting the altar flowers in today in honor of Dr. Marvin D. Wigginton on the fifteenth anniversary of the beginning of his work with our choir. We appreciate his fifteen years of faithful and efficient work with us. The good work of our choir gives evidence of his good work among us. We want him and the members of our church and our organist to know that we appreciate them.

PIANIST AND ORGANIST

We have given elsewhere the names of those who played the organ that was purchased while the Sunday School was being held in the Smith School House. We have not been able to find a complete record of all the people who have served as the pianist or organist, but we give here the information as we have been able to find it: 1929, Hazelene Grubb; 1930, Hazelene Grubb; 1931, Hazelene Grubb; assistant, (Miss) Johnnie Young; 1932, Hazelene Grubb; assistant, Johnnie Young; 1933, Hazelene Grubb; assistant, Johnnie Young; 1936, Johnnie Young; 1938, Johnnie Young; assistant, Hazelene Grubb;



DR. MARVIN D. WIGGINTON of Catawba College. He has worked with our choir since September 17, 1952.

1939, Johnnie Young; assistant, Hazelene Grubb; 1940, Johnnie Young; assistant, Hazelene Grubb, now Mrs. H. C. Jowers; 1942 through 1946, Dorothy Snyder, now Mrs. William Wheeler; 1948, Mrs. Robert Arey; assistant, Mrs. Eugene Barber; 1949, Mrs. Robert Arey; assistant, Mrs. Eugene Barber. Mrs. Arey resigned on January 4, 1950, and Mrs. William Wheeler was elected. Mrs. Robert Arey was elected again in 1952 with Guy Lanning as the assistant, and they were re-elected in 1953. Mrs. Arey resigned on May 12, 1954, and Guy Lanning was elected. In 1954 Mrs. William Wheeler was elected with Carol Hanes as the assistant, and Carol Hanes served part of the year. Mrs. William Wheeler was elected in the fall of 1955, and she served until the middle of the year of 1957. The year was completed by Joyce G. Smith, now Mrs. Marvin Poole. In 1958 Joyce A. Smith, now Mrs. Doyle Corwin, was elected with Mrs. Marvin Poole as the assistant, and in 1959 Mrs. William Wheeler served with Mrs. Marvin Poole as the assistant. Since that date they have served as follows: 1960, Mrs. Doyle Corwin; assistant, Mrs. Robert Arey; 1961, Guy Lanning; assistant, Kathryn Mae Hocutt; 1962, Kathryn Mae Hocutt; assistant, Guy Lanning; 1963, Kathryn Mae Hocutt; assistant, Guy Lanning; 1964, Guy Lanning; 1965; Judy Rickard, now Mrs. Michael Lane; 1966, Guy Lanning part of the year and Mrs. Michael Lane the rest of the year; 1967, Mrs.

Michael Lane. Unless otherwise indicated, the term of office began the first of October each year.

THE JUNIOR CHOIR

The Oakdale Church has had a good music ministry from the beginning. The church is blessed with people who love to sing. We know there has been work among the Juniors at other times, especially when Rev. and Mrs. John G. Hicks were here from November, 1944, through January, 1947; however, we do not have sufficient information to include here a record of definite work with the Juniors before 1955.

We had a good Junior Choir in the Revival that was held early in May of 1955, and a party was arranged for the boys and girls who sang with the choir during the Revival. There were about twenty present for the party. The middle of January, 1955, the Junior Choir was started with Mrs. Ralph Long as the leader and with Ann Shoaf, now Mrs. Glenn Orrell, as the pianist. The group met at the church at 3:30 each Thursday afternoon with about twenty boys and girls present. Part of the time we had a choir mother to meet with them. Robes were provided for the group. They sang for us quite often on Sunday night, and they had a part at Christmas time in the program given by the Adult Choir.

When Mrs. Long gave up the work, Mrs. Orrell continued with it. She was assisted some by Joyce A. Smith, now Mrs. Doyle Corwin. Later on Norma Talbert, now Mrs. Frank C. Hayworth, worked with the group, and Kathryn Mae Hocutt played for them. Finally interest died down, and the group discontinued to meet in April of 1960.

In April, 1967, Judy Rickard, organist of the church, and now Mrs. Michael Lane, began working with a Junior Choir, and the response was excellent. The group sang with the Adult Choir at Easter, and they did well. They have sung several times on Sunday nights. Kay Poole helped Judy in the work until her marriage to Richard Starnes on November 19, 1967. She went then to Charleston Heights, S. C., to be near her husband in service.

OFFICE SECRETARY

When Rev. John G. Hicks resigned in January, 1947, Miss Betty Ruth Smith, now Mrs. Herman D. Hood, began fixing the Sunday bulletins; and when Rev. Clay R. Barnes came as pastor, he talked her into continuing with that work. To begin with, she did this work without remuneration, but later the church began paying her \$20.00 per month for this service. She continued to serve in this way until March 13, 1955. When she resigned the church asked the clerk to send to her a letter of appreciation for her good services. After her resignation, she was a great help to the present pastor in helping him to understand the records in the

office and in showing him how to operate the mimeograph machine. She fixed the Sunday bulletins until he was on the field.

In these last years four different young ladies have helped with the work in the office on a part-time basis. They have fixed the Sunday bulletins, helped in preparing *The Oakdale Echoes* for mailing, and fixed the year book each fall for the W.M.U. Those who have helped in this way in the office are as follows: Miss Jan Coppley, now Mrs. Tom R. Johnson, from June 8, 1955, to July 5, 1958; Miss Lynn Coppley from July 1958 to August 5, 1959; Miss Eliza Green, now Mrs. Ronald Hall, from August 1959 to March 8, 1962; and Mrs. A. L. Smithey from March of 1962 to the present. For the last few years these young ladies have been in charge of ordering and distributing the literature for the Sunday School and Training Union.

THE TREASURER

We have had four men to serve in the capacity of treasurer to our Oakdale Church. Baxter Smithey was elected when the church was organized on December 27, 1925, and he served through 1935. We are not entirely sure just when his work came to a close, but the records show that C. W. Young was elected treasurer on November 20, 1936. According to *The Minutes of the Rowan Association*, he served through September of 1947, and Elvin Arrants served from that date through September of 1949. J. C. Coppley took over this work the beginning of October in 1949, and he continues to serve in this capacity.

THE CLERK

When the church was organized in 1925, D. R. Myers was chosen as the clerk, and he served until September of 1929. At his resignation, M. L. Smith was elected, and he served through September of 1947. Betty Ruth Smith, now Mrs. Herman Hood, served for two years until Ruby Wyatt, now Mrs. Jake Walton, was elected in September of 1949. After one year of service by Mrs. Walton, Mildred Morrow became the clerk in 1950, and she continued to serve through September of 1963. Since that date, Frances Easter has served in this way.

THE WORK OF THE JANITOR

In talking with Mr. and Mrs. Herman L. Greene, we learned that Mr. Greene served in an unofficial way as the janitor after our building was erected. On September 8, 1929, Mr. Greene was re-elected as choir director, and Mr. P. E. Lanning was elected as the janitor. Mr. Lanning resigned on November 4, 1929, and Mr. Greene was elected officially as the janitor. He continued to serve in this capacity until the end of September in 1943. After Mr. Greene gave up the work, Coy Rimer served for about a year.

We learn from the minutes of the meeting of the deacons on September 4, 1944, that two janitors had been employed. Mrs. Dove Henlev, a colored lady, was to do the cleaning for \$10.00 per month, and a man was to build the fires and to keep the grass mowed for the same price. The man's name was not given. In 1945 Mrs. Henlev was asked to take over all the duties and to be responsible for getting some man to cut the grass and build the fires. At that time Mrs. Henlev's salary was raised to \$13.00 per month, and the same amount was provided for her helper.

We do not know when Mrs. Henlev gave up the work, but likely it was in 1947. Elvin Arrants resigned as janitor on May 3, 1948, and Grady Arrants tells us that he thinks his brother Elvin served in this capacity for about a year. Junius Corriher was chosen as janitor when Mr. Arrants resigned. Junius gave up the work on November 6, 1948, and Mr. G. C. Carlan took over the work at that time and served until August 1, 1960. At that time Mr. and Mrs. Junius Corriher took over the work and they continued to serve with the able assistance of their two sons, Keith and Barry, until April 1, 1968. J. C. Coppley took over the work at that time. During the latter part of the time that Mr. Carlan served as janitor, the salary was \$100.00 a month. Since then the salary has been raised to \$135.00 a month. When Mr. Coppley took the work, the job was divided so two people could be employed if necessary. The work of mowing the grass during the summer season was set at \$50.00 a month, and the salary for the rest of the work was set at \$110.00 per month.

THE OAKDALE CHURCH CEMETERY

The Oakdale Cemetery has been a very sacred spot through the years to the members of the Oakdale Church. This close tie began when Mrs. T. D. (Fannie) Greene, who died on February 12, 1929, was the first to be buried there. Since that date, many other faithful and loyal members have been laid to rest in these sacred grounds.

We turned to the record of the conference on September 2, 1928, for information about the purchase of the first plot of ground for cemetery use. The record is as follows:

Church called in conference to decide whether we will purchase a plot for burying the dead. In a meeting of the deacons, they recommend the purchase of the lots belonging to Arthur Hatley, the location of these lots being in front of the church. The price of the lots was named at one thousand and fifty dollars, (\$1,050.00). The above mentioned property was unanimously accepted by the Church in conference on the date mentioned above.

A part of the money for the purchase of the cemetery grounds was borrowed from Mr. John T. Beck. The plan for the repaying of this money was to sell the lots to individuals. On March 30, 1930,

the church voted to sell plots large enough for eight graves for \$25.00 a plot. It was decided at that same conference to give church members the first choice. This policy continued until January 25, 1944, when a motion made by M. L. Smith and seconded by H. E. Morgan was approved to stop the sale of plots to people who were not members of the church. This action had been recommended by the deacons in their meeting on January 10, 1944.

On July 10, 1944, Mr. A. L. Walton reported to the deacons that Mr. Lacy Barber had offered to sell a plot of ground next to the cemetery, consisting of about three acres for \$65.00 per acre. This land was desired for additional cemetery space. The deacons recommended that this proposition be taken to the church for action as soon as the committee could get full information. This matter was discussed again in the meetings of the deacons on September 4 and October 2, 1944. Some error had been made in surveying the property, and it was decided to have it surveyed again and have the members of the Property Committee present so they would know just where the corners were. We have found no definite statement about a vote by the church to purchase this additional land, but all the records indicate clearly that favorable action was taken by the church. In the minutes of the meeting of deacons on May 7, 1945, we find that the pastor planned to call for a working on Thursday or Friday before the first Sunday in June to help clear up part of the new property. At this same meeting of the deacons, they passed a motion made by M. A. Agner and seconded by L. Y. Weant to recommend that the church discontinue paying for the digging of the graves. This recommendation was approved by the church on a motion made by W. G. Grubb and seconded by L. Y. Weant. The price for digging a grave then was \$6.00 for a regular grave and \$7.00 for a vault.

In the bulletin for Sunday, December 1, 1946, we find the following rules concerning the cemetery:

These rules of the cemetery were passed some time ago by the Church. (1) All grave markers, small corner stones and stone borders, are to be lowered down to ground level so as to make it easier in mowing the grass. (2) Everyone who buys a plot in the future must pay cash, except in cases of emergency which will be looked after gladly.

In their meeting on October 3, 1949, the deacons voted to recommend that two small lots on the lower side of the cemetery next to the Miller home be set aside for needy families of the community who are not able to pay for cemetery plots. This motion was made by L. G. Beck and seconded by W. H. Wilson. It was approved by the church.

In 1950 a wall was put around the cemetery. The following letter written April 14, 1950, by A. L. Walton, custodian of grounds, will explain this project:

We began last week to improve and beautify our Church Cemetery. Improvements are to include a stone wall around the Cemetery at a cost of close to four hundred dollars. We notice you own a lot in it and know it is a place of sacred memories, a place near to your heart. This being true, we feel you will welcome an opportunity of having a very special part in paying for this project. We are therefore enclosing an envelope for your convenience. You will understand, of course, that there is nothing compulsory about your giving and that it is just an opportunity.

On August 8, 1951, on a motion made by W. S. Easter and seconded by K. H. Williams, the church voted to sell to A. L. Walton approximately three-fourths of an acre of the cemetery land adjoining his property for the sum of \$25.00 if he would fix up the deeds.

On September 4, 1957, a recommendation was brought by the deacons that stone be put on the drive in the cemetery and that curbing be put around the new part of the cemetery as soon as the money was available. On a motion by J. C. Copley and seconded by T. D. Poole, the church voted at that time to have stone put on the drive. On June 4, 1958, the church voted to have the curbing fixed around the new area of the cemetery. The motion was by Lester Beck and the second by W. S. Easter. The curbing was necessary to prevent water from washing down on the graves in the new area at times of hard rain.

The deacons recommended on October 5, 1960, that the new part of the cemetery be resurveyed in such a way that plots would be available for either two, four, or eight graves. The church approved the recommendation. The motion was made by H. M. Hocutt and was seconded by Lester Beck.

On the recommendation of the deacons on October 7, 1964, the church voted to put asphalt on the driveway through the cemetery, beginning at the entrance to Charles Street and extending for about thirty feet to the crest of the hill. The purpose of this was to stop washing at that point in the driveway. This was not done for some months. On May 5, 1965, the church voted to have asphalt put on all of the driveway at a cost of \$550.00. This last motion was made by J. C. Copley and was seconded by Mrs. H. H. Raper. This work was done by Ascon Paving Company some weeks later.

OUR LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM



Little League Team in 1954: Back row (left to right), Lee Beck, Butch Turner, Jesse McBride, Jr., Warren Beck, Charles Call, Jr., Dennis Raper, Jerry Grubb, W. R. Julian; middle row, David Hanes, Junior Noles, Walter Smith, Jerry Smith, Jimmy Nevins, Neal Medinger, Larry Turner; three in front, Melvin Smith, Jr., Michael Wheeler, and Gray Medlinger. Terry Julian was not in the picture. This team won 14 games and lost 4. They also won the pennant.

On March 10, 1954, on the recommendation of the deacons, and on a motion made by Mrs. Harvey E. Morgan and seconded by Mrs. Irene Byerly, our church voted to enter our boys in the Spencer Little Baseball League. This was the first year of the Spencer Little League, and it was composed of the following teams: Yadkin Lions, Jaycees, Spencer Athletics, and Oakdale. The games for the first year or more were played in our community where Mr. Lee Swinson has his place of business. We have had a team each year composed mainly of our Oakdale boys. The boys have received valuable experience and training from playing on the team, and they have given a good account of themselves in the league. Our Oakdale Team was the champion team for three years, 1954, 1957, and 1958. In 1954 Lee Beck was the coach with Zonie Rickard and W. R. Julian as his assistants, and in 1957 and 1958 W. R. Julian was the coach with Melvin Smith as his assistant. Our team won

second place in 1956 with W. R. Julian as the coach. Other men who have helped in coaching the team are Robert G. Beck, Robert Snyder, Arthur L. Feezor, W. L. Noles, Jr., Richard Call, Jimmy Young, Eugene Barber, Barry Medinger, and Alex Shumaker. In these last years Cleo Grubb, Paul Adams, and Junius Corriher have given much time helping with the games. Several of the people, including some of the ladies, have helped with the concession stand. Lee Beck and Eugene Sigmon have served as president of the league, and Junius Corriher has served as secretary and treasurer.

Several members of our team and some others connected with our church family who played on other teams have won honors. We give here information, as we have been able to secure it. In 1957 Dana Snider was chosen as the most valuable player in the league, and in 1958 Grey Medinger was selected as the most valuable player in the league. Gary "Buster" Corriher who played with the Jaycees was the rookie of the year for 1958, the most improved player for 1959, and the most valuable player in the league for 1961. Lamont Poole was chosen as the most valuable player in the league for 1960. Jimmy Beck was the rookie of the year for 1961 and the most valuable player in the league in 1965. He started playing on the team sponsored by Williams Service Station and changed later to the team sponsored by Sims Texaco Station. Roger Rickard was picked as the most valuable player on the Oakdale Team for 1965. In 1966 Johnny Barber was picked as the most valuable hitter on the Oakdale Team, and Danny Grubb, Mike Smith, Max Thomas, and Johnny Barber were chosen as the most valuable players on the Oakdale Team.

In 1958 Michael Wheeler was selected as the most valuable player on the All Star team of the Spencer Little League. Our team played the All Star team from Salisbury, and Michael tells us that our team was the winner.

At this date, May 25, 1968, Jim Beck, James W. Beck, and Junius Corriher are working with the boys for this season.

THE BUILDING FUND

The history of the present building fund goes back to November 7, 1951. The treasurer's report on that date showed a balance of \$958.29 in the treasury. The deacons recommended that \$500.00 be placed in the Home Building and Loan Association "as a special building fund and that this fund be added to each month as church finances may permit." Betty Ruth Smith made the motion that this be done, and Jake Walton seconded it. The vote was unanimous. The minutes of the business meeting in December, 1951, reveal the fact that the treasurer, J. C. Coppley, had been able to put \$1,000.00 into the Building and Loan instead of \$500.00 as suggested. The fund stood at \$1,000.00 until February of 1957 when another deposit of \$500.00 was made. Another deposit of \$900.00 was made

in March of the same year. In December of 1957 the treasurer was able to add \$1,300.00 to this amount. This brought the fund to a total of \$3,700.00.

On March 6, 1957, the church voted to set aside the undesignated offerings on each second Sunday for the building fund. This was recommended by the deacons. The motion to do this was made by Jake Walton, and the second was by W. S. Easter. For some months this was not done because the offerings were not high enough to make it possible; however, through the years this policy has been followed rather closely. In addition to the second Sunday offerings, many people have made special contributions for the building fund, and the special offering on Homecoming Day each year has been added to this fund. All of this has caused the fund to grow steadily, and now (May 1968) it stands at \$77,267.58.

On April 6, 1966, the church voted to name a special Finance Committee of five to promote the fund and to give recommendations about how much we should have in the treasury before asking for bids on the new building. The regular Nominating Committee was asked to submit the names of five people for this committee, and they nominated Jimmy Young as chairman and Mrs. Herman Hood, Mrs. Robert S. Arey, James H. Neely, and Eugene Barber to serve with him. These were duly elected. This committee has recommended that we do not ask for bids until we have as much as \$80,000.00 on hand. We hope this amount can be reached within the next few months.

BUILDING PLANS

Several actions have been taken within the last few years relative to building plans. On January 9, 1957, on the recommendation of the deacons, a committee of seven was named to study the needs for future building plans and to bring recommendations back to the church on this matter. This committee, composed of T. D. Poole, Jake Walton, W. H. Wilson, Betty Ruth Smith, Mrs. Charles Call, Paul Hinkle, and Paul Barber, was chosen by ballot on Sunday morning, January 20, 1957. Since we did not have the money to build when the committee was named, this group took plenty of time before making a report. On February 4, 1959, the church made \$200.00 available to this committee to take care of any expenses they might have in connection with their work. The committee sent the best information they could get to the Architectural Department of the Sunday School Board with the request that they give us suggestions about building plans that would meet our needs. When the plans were received, the members of the committee studied them and then submitted them to the deacons for their study. The deacons brought the plan to the church on March 8, 1961. On a motion by Betty Ruth Smith and seconded by Mrs. H. H. Raper, the church voted to have an open discussion on the plans on Wednesday night, March 15, and then present them to the church for a final vote. On a motion

made by Tommy Beck and a second by Robert Snyder, the church gave unanimous approval to the plans on Sunday morning, March 26, 1961.

On the recommendation of the deacons and on a motion made by Lester Beck and a second by Jimmy Young, the church voted on November 1, 1961, to ask Mr. Robert Stone, a local architect, to draw up the plans for the proposed new building. The approved tentative plans received from the Sunday School Board were given to him to use in his work. At the same meeting a committee was chosen to work with Mr. Stone in the final plans and in the construction of the building. This committee was composed of the members of the Building Committee and of the Finance Committee as follows: Tommy Beck, chairman, William Wheeler, T. D. Poole, L. Y. Weant, Carl Hanes, W. H. Wilson, Mrs. Lee Noles, Jimmy Young, Charles Call, J. C. Coppley, Jake Walton, Mildred Morrow, and Mrs. H. H. Raper.

When the drawings of the new building were received from Mr. Stone, the members of the committee studied them and had an open meeting when all members of the church could ask questions and make suggestions. They were then brought to the deacons, and the deacons brought them on to the church with some recommended changes as had been suggested by the committee. The plans were discussed at the worship service on Sunday morning, April 6, and they were approved by a vote of the church on Sunday morning, April 19, 1964.

On Sunday morning, November 8, 1964, Tommy Beck brought the recommendation of the architect that the new building be heated by hot water with oil used for fuel. An open discussion was held on this matter at that time. The vote was taken by secret ballot on Sunday morning, November 15, when Charles Call read the recommendations of the deacons that the building not be air conditioned and that we use hot water type of heat fired by oil. Charles Call made the motion that the recommendations of the deacons be accepted, and W. H. Wilson seconded it. The motion carried by a vote of 105 to 12.

The working plans from the architect were brought to the regular conference by the deacons on June 9, 1966, with the recommendation that they be brought to the church for a vote on a Sunday morning. This recommendation was approved on a motion by Guy Lanning and a second by Richard Shoaf. The church was called into conference on Sunday morning, June 19, 1966, to vote on the plans. The motion to approve the plans was made by Tommy Beck, and the second was by William Wheeler. The vote was by secret ballot with 63 in favor of the motion and three against it.

On Sunday morning, May 19, 1968, upon the recommendation of the deacons, the church was called into special conference to give consideration to the matter of building a pastor's home before building the planned Educational Building. Upon a motion made

by W. H. Wilson and seconded by William Wheeler, the church voted 94 to 10 to build the pastor's home first. For quite some while many members have felt the need of a new home for the pastor.

On Sunday morning, June 16, 1968, the members of the church chose a committee by secret ballot to make recommendations concerning a site and floor plans for a new pastor's home. The members of the committee are William Wheeler, Carl Hanes, Harold Lingle, Jake Walton, W. H. Wilson, Mrs. W. H. Wilson, Mrs. H. H. Raper, Mrs. Herman Hood, Mrs. Ralph Lingle, W. S. Easter, Lee Snyder, and J. C. Copley.

MEMORIAL WINDOWS

There are several memorial windows in the auditorium and in the front of the building that were donated by individuals, families, or groups. We do not know the cost of each window in the auditorium, but the cost of the windows put in when the front of the building was completed was \$54.00 each. We give below the wording as it appears on each window.

In Memoriam J. Lee Brooks, Jr.	In Memoriam Mr. & Mrs. Melmoth E. Young
In Memoriam Mrs. Daisy L. Kenerly	In Memoriam W. T. Clark
In Memoriam Fannie Green By W.M.U.	In Memoriam Mrs. W. C. Barnhardt Died March 13, 1934
In Memoriam W. T. Clark	Donated By Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Grubb And Family
E. L. Bradley, Pastor By the Church	R. O. Brinkley, Pastor By Board of Deacons
Presented By J. R. Reid and Wife L. Y. Weant and Family	Presented By A. F. Copley and Wife W. L. Beck and Wife

OUR BELOVED DEAD

We list here with tender memories the names of the members of our Oakdale Church who have gone from us to their eternal reward. These names have been taken mainly from *The Minutes of the Rowan Association*. We need to remember that our associational year runs from the first of October of one year through the following September. This means that the deaths that have come during October, November, and December of each year have been reported in *The Minutes* of the following year; however, the present pastor has checked on the deaths that have come since May of

1955 to make sure that they are included in this record in the years in which they occurred. In some of the earlier years the records include the number of deaths instead of the names of those who have died. For that reason, we are not sure we have a correct list of all the members who have died. We give here only the years when the names of those who had died were given.

1929: Mrs. T. D. (Fannie) Greene, Sr.

1931: Mrs. Annie E. Clement.

1932: Mrs. Martha Easter.

1934: Mrs. W. C. Barnhardt, Sr., Mrs. M. E. Young,
Mr. W. Lewis Beck.

1935: Mr. D. R. Myers.

1936: Mr. J. F. Wise and Mrs. Irene Winsor.

1938: Mr. W. N. Hinkle.

1940: Mrs. J. B. Clark.

1941: Mr. J. M. Lowman and Mrs. L. J. Poole, Sr.

1942: Mr. C. L. Broadway and Mr. G. H. Morrow.

1943: Mr. J. B. Clark, Mrs. W. L. Beck, Mr. H. B. Crook.

1944: Mr. Henry L. Smith.

1945: Mr. C. C. Smith, Sr.

1946: Mr. A. P. Snider, Sr., and Mr. L. J. Poole, Sr.

1947: Mr. T. D. Greene, Sr., Mrs. T. B. Smithey, Mrs. A. C. Hamilton.

1948: Mr. Tom Brooks, Mrs. Albert Brooks, Mr. Crawford Noah.

1949: Mr. T. B. Smithey.

1950: Mr. A. D. Craig and Mr. J. T. Clark.

1951: Mrs. G. H. Morrow.

1952: Mr. John Reid and Mr. L. D. Ramsey, Jr.

1953: Mr. E. L. Barnhardt.

1954: Mr. D. L. Wilson and Mr. G. W. Rickard.

1955: Mr. E. P. Merck, Mr. J. Frank Coppoley, Mr. J. W. Poole.

1956: Mrs. C. C. Smith, Sr., Mr. Henry A. Easter, Mr. Harold Ramsey.

1957: Mr. M. L. Smith and Mr. A. B. Beck.

1958: Mr. J. L. Wyatt, Mr. P. E. Lanning, Miss Betty Harkey,
Mr. Robert F. Burch, Mrs. H. L. McBride.

- 1959: Miss Etta Easter, Mrs. George W. Lomax, Mr. W. H. Mauldin,
Mrs. Van B. Rickard, Mr. Adam L. Walton.
- 1960: Mr. Maynard L. Parris, Mrs. J. B. Monk, Mr. J. R. Burton,
Mr. Leo Coleman, Mrs. Ed R. Lanning, Mrs. M. A. Agner,
Mr. M. A. Agner, Mr. A. F. Copley, Mr. W. Lee Smith.
- 1962: Mrs. W. N. Hinkle, Mr. J. H. Young, Mr. Jim C. Beck,
Mr. W. Frank Shuping, Mrs. C. B. Steele.
- 1963: Mr. Locke A. Doby.
- 1964: Mr. S. H. Talbert, Mr. Hugh D. Young, Mrs. D. R. Myers,
Mrs. Hollis L. Hinkle, Sr.
- 1965: Miss Cora Grubb, Mr. W. Frank Sides, Mr. D. Webster Loflin.
- 1966: Mrs. J. L. Wyatt, Mr. Robert B. Simmerson,
Mr. Raymond Wilson.
- 1967: Mrs. Roy B. Young, Sr., Mr. Hollis L. Hinkle, Sr.,
Mr. Van B. Rickard.
- 1968: Mr. Harrell Lanning, Mr. Joe Green, Mr. Lester G. Beck,
Mr. C. F. Buie, Mr. L. D. Ramsey, Mrs. O. C. Call,
Mr. Calvin Warren, Mrs. Ray Grubb, Sr., Mrs. C. R. Osborne

SUMMARY OF REPORT TO ROWAN ASSOCIATION 1967

We give here as a matter of interest to present and future readers a brief summary of the work of the Oakdale Church during the year that closed on September 30, 1967. This is taken from the report to the Rowan Association. This will give some indication of the strength and work of the church at this time. The summary is as follows: total membership, 495; number baptized during the year, 13; Sunday School enrolment, 365; average Sunday School attendance, 213; Training Union enrolment, 87; average Training Union attendance, 52; total W.M.U. enrolment, 149; enrolled in the choirs, 36; total contributions, \$30,484.00; expenditures for local causes, \$15,445.00; total given to missions, \$7,630; enrolled in the Royal Ambassadors, 16; total value of church property, \$107,000.00.

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Hocutt, Rev. H.M.

Toils and Tears

